THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS BOOK IN-HAND ♥ IF YOU PICKED IT UP NEW, I'LL BE VERY HAPPY ♥ IF YOU PICKED IT UP USED >SOB< BUT I'M STILL GLAD YOU READ IT. UNLIKE MY OTHER VOLUMES, THIS VOLUME 4 HAS A DEFINITE "TO BE CONTINUED" ENDING! YES, THAT'S RIGHT! IT WILL CONTINUE!!

BECAUSE REI AND AKIRA STILL HAVEN'T GONE ALL THE WAY YET (SORRY IT WAS SO UNCLEAR), AND I'D LIKE TO DEVELOP SHIGURE AND OKUMIYA'S RELATIONSHIP MORE... AND RAOUL - I WANT HIM TO TRY A LITTLE HARDER! AND SO... THE STORY WILL CONTINUE! IF YOU COULD, PLEASE CHECK OUT THE UPCOMING VOLUME 5 AS WELL ♥♥

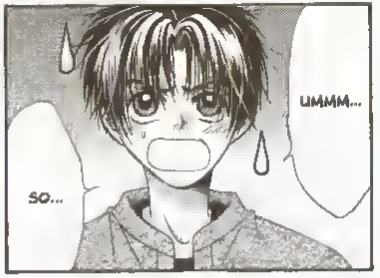
TO ALL YOU READERS WHO SEND ME LETTERS ♥ I LOVE YOU ALL!! AS I AM NEVER VERY CONFIDENT ABOUT MY OWN WORK, IT MAKES ME ECSTATIC WHEN I GET A LETTER TELLING ME, "I ENJOYED IT." IT REVITALIZES ME TO KEEP ON DRAWING! ALTHOUGH I'M STILL NOT ABLE TO WRITE ANY OF YOU BACK... PLEASE KNOW THAT I'M ALWAYS FILLED WITH GRATITUDE!! THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH ♥♥♥

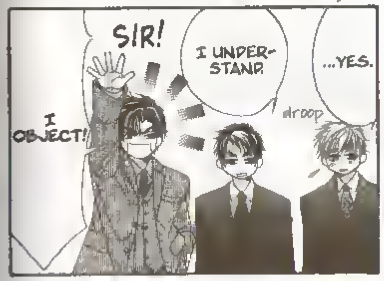
FINALLY, TO MY BELEAGUERED EDITOR, MY ASSISTANTS, AND MY ADORABLE PETS ♥ I AM **EXTREMELY GRATEFUL** TO YOU ALL ♥

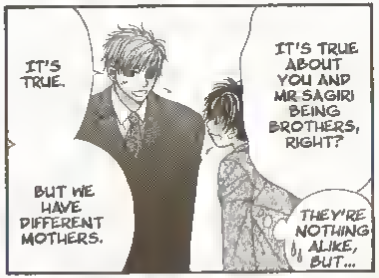
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

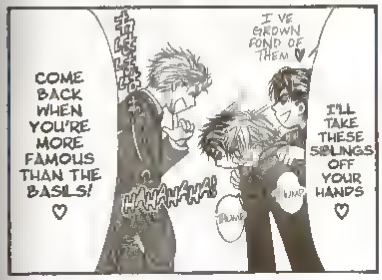
NOTICE

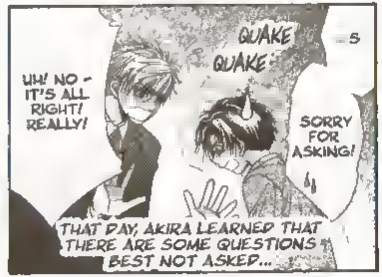
THERE IS AN ERROR IN THE FANBOOK UNDER AKIRA'S BLOOD TYPE. HIS CORRECT BLOOD TYPE IS "A". FOR SOME REASON DURING THE EDITING PROCESS BOTH MY EDITOR AND I JUST SORT OF HAD A HAZY RECOLLECTION THAT AKIRA WAS A TYPE "O" - AND WE NEVER NOTICED OUR MISTAKE. I APOLOGIZE FOR THE ERROR.










-5
QUAKE
QUAKE
UH! NO - IT'S ALL RIGHT! REALLY!
SORRY FOR ASKING!
THAT DAY, AKIRA LEARNED THAT THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS BEST NOT ASKED...

(I THINK SHIGURE WOULD LIKE THAT.)
WOW - !!
THE TAKATOU MANOR.
JAPAN
WHAT A HUGE MANSION!!!
IT'S ULTRA JAPANESE-STYLE!!
SORRY ABOUT HIM.
SPARKLE SPARKLE
GRIP
HAHAHA
THAT'S EXACTLY HOW I REACTED WHEN I FIRST SAW THIS HOUSE, TOO!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL
PEASANTS CAN BE SO COARSE.
OH! I DID, ACTUALLY!!
HEY, DON'T YOU GET THE URGE TO GO EXPLORING IN SUCH A HUGE PLACE LIKE THIS?
NO... I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
DID YOU FIND MOVING SUITS OF ARMOR?! OR MYSTERIOUS SCROLLS?! OR CURSED DOLLS?! STUFF LIKE THAT?!
MR. OKUMIYA FOUND ME RIGHT AWAY AND I GOT IN TROUBLE.
SPARKLE SPARKLE

I JUST HEARD...
AKIRA.
!!
JUMP!
THIS VOICE
TAMAKI AND HIS FRIEND ARE HERE?
REI!
HIDE!
IT'S HIM...!
THANKS FOR HAVING US!
WHERE THE HECK HAVE YOU BEEN?!
I SEARCHED ALL OVER FOR YOU!!
NAPPING...
YAWN
DON'T YOU REMEMBER WE INVITED TAMAKI AND HIYORI OVER TO STUDY WITH US TODAY?!
...
...
I REMEMBER I INVITED YOU
OH, YEAH...
GEEZ I DON'T THINK OF IT
UNINTERESTED!

REI!!
MORE THAN TWO MONTHS HAVE ALREADY PASSED
SINCE I'VE BEEN TAKEN IN TO LIVE IN THE TAKATOU HOUSEHOLD.
I'M AKIRA NONAKA -
AND THIS IS MY COUSIN, REI.
REI -
SOMETIMES YOU WANDER OFF JUST LIKE A CAT.
I SWEAR
WE LIVE HERE IN THIS MANSION AS CANDIDATES TO BE THE NEXT HEIR.
CHUCKLE
BUT DON'T YOU DO THAT, TOO, AKIRA?
IN AKIRA-KUN'S CASE...HE ONLY RUNS TO HIDE FROM HIS LESSONS, CORRECT?
YEAH! I HAVE A LEGITIMATE REASON...

SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION.
Y... YES!
YOU ARE SIR REI AND AKIRA-KUN'S CLASSMATES?
MY NAME IS OKUMIYA - I AM IN CHARGE OF OVERSEEING THIS MANSION.
DOOOM
M...
MR. OKUMIYA...
GIRIN
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN REALLY BOAST ABOUT, NOW IS IT?
...IS SIR REI'S BODYGUARD- RUSSELL SHIGURE KUROSAKI.
AND THIS...
YES! THANK YOU!
PLEASE RELAX AND STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE TODAY.
THANKS FOR YOUR HOSPITA...!!
IS HE HALF-BLOODER...?
YOUNG
WOW! GREAT!
GLARE
SPARKLE
BODY-GUARD!!

WOW THE CEILING IN THE HALLWAY IS SO COOL♡
HITORI! WATCH IT OR YOU'LL WALK INTO SOMETHING!
HEY!
LET'S GET ON OVER TO MY ROOM. YOU'RE COMING, TOO - RIGHT, REI?
OF COURSE - IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE THERE, AKIRA♡
WELL, TODAY CERTAINLY OUGHT TO BE LIVELY.
YES!!
SIR REI NEVER HAD FRIENDS OVER TO HIS HOME WHILE HE WAS IN AMERICA!
BOTH SIR REI AND I...
...
...
...ARE VERY GLAD TO HAVE COME HERE TO THE TAKATOU HOUSEHOLD.

YES?
? UM...IS SOMETHING WRONG?
...
...
NO...
BUT I GUESS I'D BETTER INFORM YOU OF THIS-
I RECEIVED NOTICE FROM AMERICA EARLY THIS MORNING.
TODAY, YOUR BIG BROTHER...
JOLT
...WILHELM SAGIRI KUROSAKI... WILL BE ARRIVING HERE.
I DON'T KNOW THE SPECIFIC REASON FOR HIS VISIT, BUT...
I...
...SEE.
CLENCH

AS FOR THE REASON...
...I ALREADY KNOW WHY.
RUSTLE...
OH, I GET IT TOO
WHAT FALL ON JAN?
OH, MAN- THIS
REI, HOW DO YOU SOLVE THIS?
FLOP
AHH FORGET IT, IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE
NAP TIME

REI AND AKIRA - THIS GOLDEN WEEK...
...DO YOU HAVE PLANS TO GO ANYWHERE?
HMM... NOT ESPECIALLY.
BUT YOU AND HIYORI ALREADY HAVE PLANS, RIGHT?
LUCKY!
YEAH, BUT IT'S JUST AN ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER OF OUR FAMILIES.
OH! BUT THAT'S NOT UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING. SO, WOULDN'T IT BE FUN FOR US TO HAVE A SLEEPOVER HERE UNTIL THEN?
HUH?! SLEEP-OVER?! ♡
WAKE
#11
DON'T INTRUDE ON MY TIME ALONE WITH AKIRA!
GLARE
THANK YOU FOR TODAY - !
CAW
CAW
EMITTING DEADLY AURA
"LOVE-BIRDS?"
AHAHAHA
SO LOVEY DOVEY!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
JUST KIDDING.♡ WE WOULDN'T WANT TO INTRUDE UPON TWO LOVEBIRDS IN THEIR NEST, SO WE'LL TAKE A RAINCHECK.

THE TAKATOUS ARE ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL FAMILIES IN JAPAN.
THEY'RE EVEN GIVING US A RIDE HOME FOR OUR SAFETY!
AKIRA AND REI'S HOUSE WAS COOLER THAN I IMAGINED!
SIGH...
SEE YOU AT SCHOOL
BYE
AND REI IS ALSO THE SON OF THE EVEN-WEALTHIER BASILS OF AMERICA.
HE'S SCARY
BUT REI DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE NEEDS ONE!
THEY SURE ARE! NO NORMAL HOUSEHOLD HAS BODY-GUARDS IN-ATTENDANCE!
I'VE HEARD THAT, ASIDE FROM HIS SON REI, MR. BASIL ONLY HAS DAUGHTERS...
BUT HE'S RIGHT... IT IS A BIT STRANGE...
HIYORI... KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN. DON'T CALL THEM "FANATICAL"!
OOPS!
SHH
SLAP
NO - THOSE TWO NEVER MENTION IT, BUT...
...IT SEEMS THEY'RE LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF AS COMPETING CANDIDATES TO BE THE NEXT TAKATOU HEIR.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! SO, DOES THAT MEAN REI IS THE NEXT IN LINE TO TAKE OVER THE BASIL NAME?!
WOW!
...MUST MEAN REI'S PARENTS ARE FANATICALLY OVER-PROTECTIVE OF THEIR SON!!
HUH...SO, SENDING OVER A PERSONAL BODYGUARD FOR REI ALL THE WAY FROM AMERICA...

I HAVE FUN WHEN I'M WITH YOU, TOO, REI!
O...OF COURSE I-
HUH?
B... BUT...
BUT?
TWITCH
UMM
WELL, ACTUALLY- "FUN" ISN'T EXACTLY THE WORD...
...FOR IT...
BA-THUMP!
I STILL PREFER...
...BEING ALONE TOGETHER WITH YOU.
WHEN HE PUTS HIS FACE SO CLOSE TO MINE... WHEN WE'RE ALL ALONE TOGETHER LIKE THIS...
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
...I WOULDN'T DESCRIBE THIS FEELING AS FUN!

TAMAKI AND HIYORI WENT HOME...
OH DOO
HMM...IT'S JUST THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST LIVELY TIME WE'VE HAD IN THIS HOUSE, SO IT WAS FUN♡
LONELY?
AKIRA?
AM I NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?
WOULD HE REALLY BE WILLING...
...TO LET GO OF HIS ONLY SON SO EASILY...?
BUT MAYBE MINE IS JUST A JAPANESE WAY OF THINKING?

Our Kingdom 4

Naduki Koujima

REI and AKIRA grapple with growing feelings with each passing day...and now there's a host of curious new faces checking out their confused courtship! But the new crew wastes no time getting in on the action...bodyguards exchange blows, Rei's darkest secret to-date threatens to swim to the surface, and what kind of story would it be without an abduction at-sea?! Can the visitors bring harmony to the private palace, or will chaos consume the land of love?

Forced into rivalry by family blood, the innocent boys of Our Kingdom would rather test the waters of temptation on their own terms! Vulnerable Akira is set to learn so much more than his school lessons, and the brooding Rei takes on the duties of his teacher in both life and deep love. With so much at stake, can these two potential heirs finally rise up and seize a special, shared destiny?

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NATIVE MANGA
READ RIGHT TO LEFT
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DIRTY BOY.♡
KISS
JOLT
WHAT?!
D...DON'T CALL ME CUTE AND STUFF!!
!!
RIGHT NOW...
YOU'RE REALLY AROUSED BEING WITH ME, AREN'T YOU?
WCK
FLINCH
!!
LOOK AT YOU - YOU'RE AS RED AS A BOILED "TAKO" JUST FROM THIS!
YOU DON'T MIND, THOUGH - RIGHT?
GRIN♥
BEET RED
WHA... YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S "DIRTY," RE!!!
I'M DYING TO KNOW HOW YOU'D REACT...
...IF I WENT FURTHER THAN THIS WITH YOU.

SQUINT
IT'S REALLY MORE... HEART-STOPPING...
KISS
FLINCH
THAT CUTE LOOK ON YOUR FACE...
HA
IT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY!
AKIRA -
YOU MAKE THAT CUTE FACE ONLY FOR ME, WHEN WE'RE ALONE TOGETHER.

〈ARE THEY SUPER-TASTY, ROSE?〉
〈HOW SHOULD I KNOW?!〉
〈I WOULD NEVER EAT A GROTESQUE-LOOKING THING LIKE THAT!!〉
(THE JAPANESE SURE HAVE WEIRD TASTES...)
SLAM!!
〈HEY! YOU TWO!!〉
JUMP!
〈SHH! STUPID MAGGIE! THEY'LL HEAR YOU!!〉
〈A "TAKO" IS AN OCTOPUS, RIGHT? DO THEY REALLY BOIL A SCARY-LOOKING THING LIKE THAT?〉
?!
ドキン!!
JUMP!
〈WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?〉
HMO..?
〈U...UNCLE KYLE...!!〉

BUT WHENEVER I'M WITH HIM, I CAN'T STOP MY HEART FROM RACING, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BOTH GUYS...

AS ALWAYS, REI'S IN-CONTROL WHILE I STUMBLE ALONG AT HIS PACE.

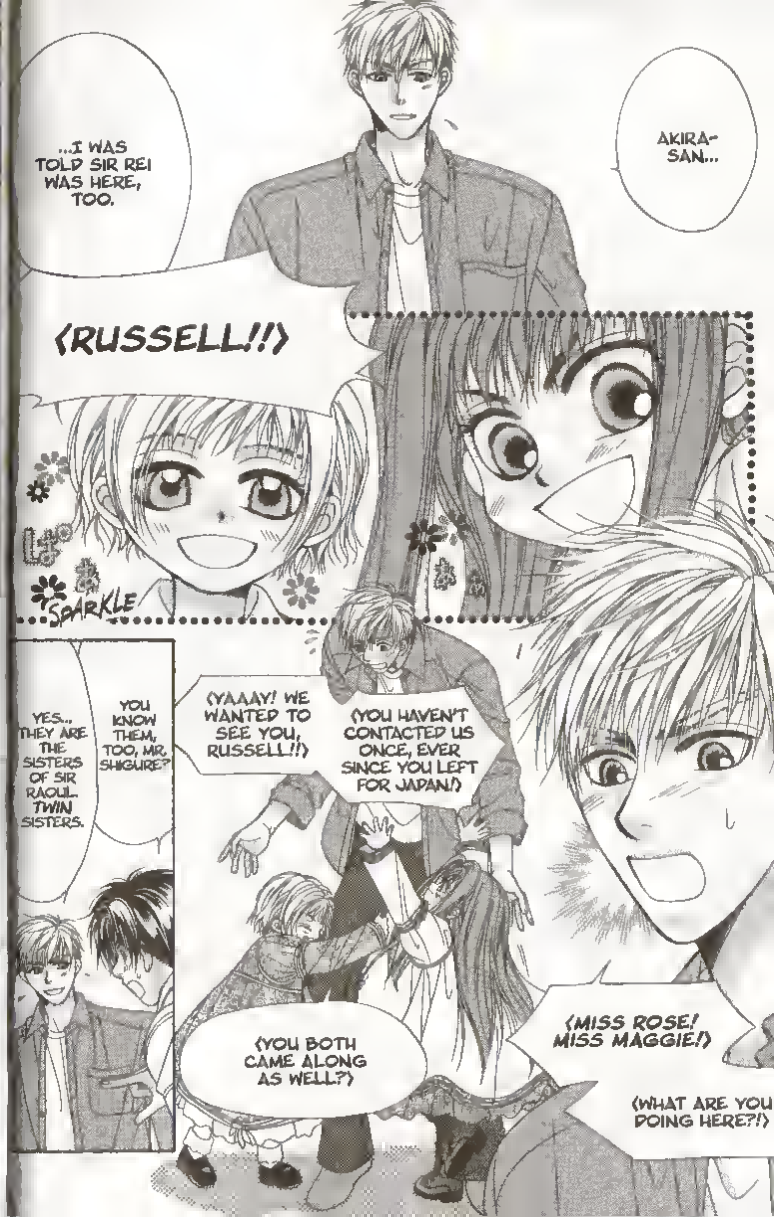
AND WHEN REI LOOKS AT ME WITH SUCH A HAPPY EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE...

〈WHAT'S A BOILED "TAKO"?〉

(HE'S A DUMMY...?)
(WHAT?! WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?! HE'S STUPID! ALL HE HEARD WAS "BASIL"!)
HUH? UMM..PRIM... SOMETHING BASIL? A..AND MARGARET? ...BASIL?
GRAB
SHAKE
REI?!
(JUST LIKE YOU GUYS CAN'T SPEAK JAPANESE, HE'S NOT GOOD AT ENGLISH EITHER!)
(WHA- ...! WE CAN'T SPEAK IT BUT WE'RE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND JAPANESE PERFECTLY!)
WE'RE NOT STUPID!
(SPEAK SLOWER!)
KNOCK KNOCK
PARDON ME.
(BESIDES...)
(IF YOU TWO ARE HERE, THAT MEANS HE'S HERE...)
OH! UH, YES!!
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THEIR ENGLISH AT ALL!!
W... WAIT! REI!!
THEY'RE JUST LITTLE GIRLS...!!

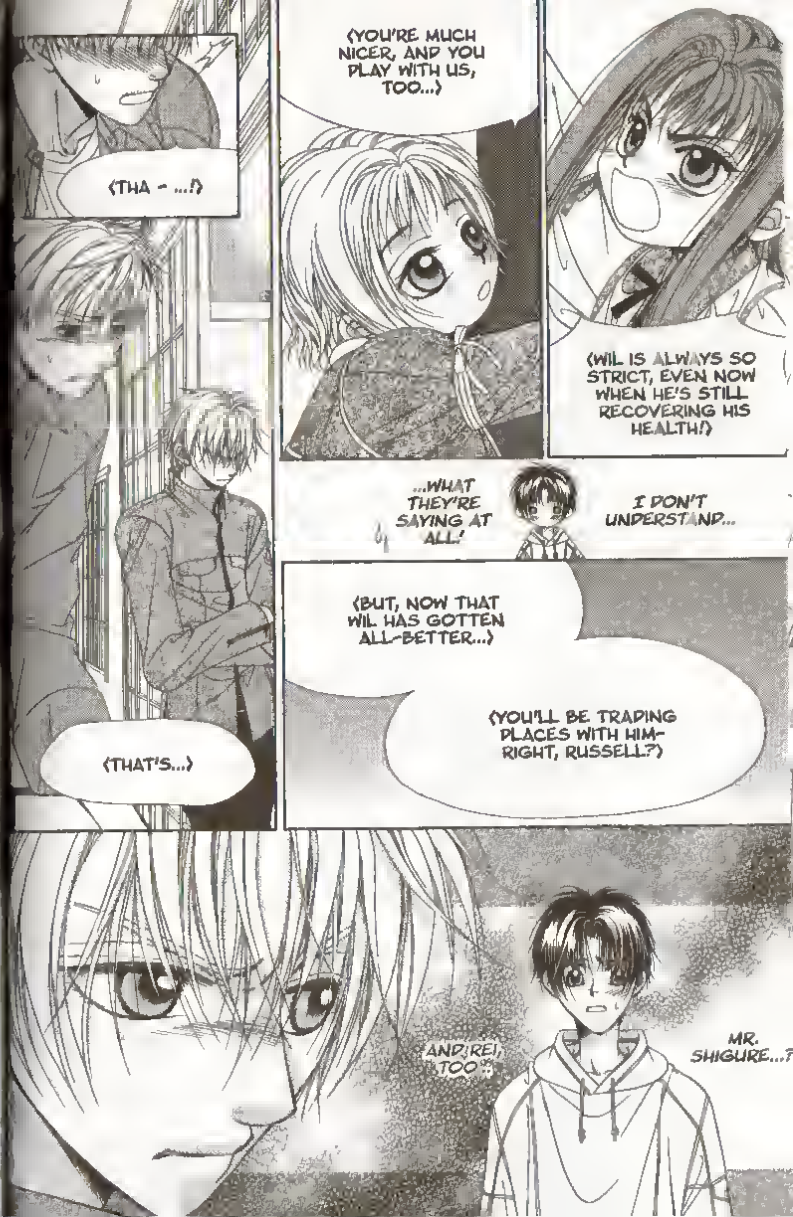
ENGLISH...?
THEY LOOK LIKE TINY DOLLS
THESE KIDS...
(THAT'S RIGHT!)
(WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING...)
(WE WERE JUST TAKING A WALK, THAT'S ALL!)
(THEN WE SPOTTED YOU, UNCLE KYLE, SO WE WERE JUST DOING A LITTLE PEEPING!)
(STUPID MAGGIE!!!)
DON'T TELL THEM THAT!!
YOU... KNOW THEM, RIGHT? I MEAN, THEY'RE FOREIGN, TOO, SO...
...
...
THESE TWO ARE...
ATTENTION!
(MY NAME IS MARGUERITE DE BAVIER BASIL...)
(MY NAME IS PRIMEVÈRE DE BAVIER BASIL!)

HUH? SO, THEY CAN UNDER-STAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
THEY UNDER-STAND IT.
THEY CAN'T SPEAK ANY JAPANESE, BUT...
(WE STUDIED FOR RUSSELL!)
...REI'S IN SUCH A BAD MOOD.
...
WHAT? RAOUL?!
SO THAT'S WHY...
HMPH
(YOU CAN CALL ME BY MY NICKNAME, "ROSE.")
<SINCE YOU DON'T SEEM VERY SMART >
(AND I'M CALLED "MAGGIE"...IT'S SHORT FOR THE ENGLISH VERSION OF MY NAME, MARGARET...IT MEANS "PEARL.")
(AND BY THE WAY, "ROSE" IS SHORT FOR "PRIMROSE"... IT'S THE NAME OF A FLOWER.)
YOU CAN JUST CALL ME AKIRA
I'M AKIRA NONAKA.
REI'S COUSIN


...I WAS TOLD SIR REI WAS HERE, TOO.
AKIRA-SAN...
(RUSSELL!!)
SPARKLE
YES... THEY ARE THE SISTERS OF SIR RAOUL. TWIN SISTERS.
YOU KNOW THEM, TOO, MR. SHIGURE?
(YAAAY! WE WANTED TO SEE YOU, RUSSELL!!)
(YOU HAVEN'T CONTACTED US ONCE, EVER SINCE YOU LEFT FOR JAPAN!)
(YOU BOTH CAME ALONG AS WELL?)
(MISS ROSE! MISS MAGGIE!)
(WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!)

WHAT? YOU HAVE A BIG BROTHER, MR. SHIGURE?!
OH...YES! HE'S ALSO A BODYGUARD.
BUT HE'S SUPERIOR TO ME IN EVERY WAY.
(THAT'S NOT TRUE!)
(WE LIKE YOU BETTER, RUSSELL!!)
MY OLDER BROTHER SAGIRI...
...IS HERE AS WELL.
...AND LITTLE "MAGGIE"?
SO IT'S LITTLE "ROSE"...
(...OH, REALLY?)
(STUPID MAGGIE! IT'S NO USE EXPLAINING-- HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH!!)
SMILE
I'M AKIRA.
I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
...
...
AND BESIDES SIR RAOUL'S SISTERS...
...ONE OTHER PERSON...
UM...
OH! YES.
SHOES.
SHIGURE! WHAT DID YOU WANT?
RAOUL'S HERE, ISN'T HE?

A... AT ANY RATE, MR.OKUMIYA IS ASKING FOR YOU, SO...
EVERYONE PLEASE COME WITH ME.
THEY'RE ACTING STRANGE.
YOUR PARTY'S VISIT TODAY...
...I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN FILLED IN AS TO THE REASON FOR IT.
MY PRESENCE HERE TODAY...
...IS FOR BUT ONE REASON ONLY.
PARDON US FOR OUR SUDDEN INTRUSION.
...MR. WILHELM SAGIRI KUROSAKI


〈THA - ...!〉
〈YOU'RE MUCH NICER, AND YOU PLAY WITH US, TOO...〉
〈WIL IS ALWAYS SO STRICT, EVEN NOW WHEN HE'S STILL RECOVERING HIS HEALTH!〉
...WHAT THEY'RE SAYING AT ALL!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
〈BUT, NOW THAT WIL HAS GOTTEN ALL-BETTER...〉
〈YOU'LL BE TRADING PLACES WITH HIM-RIGHT, RUSSELL?〉
〈THAT'S...〉
AND REI, TOO?!
MR. SHIGURE...?

I DON'T NEED THEM!
THEN THEY WILL ACCOMPANY YOU-
THERE'S STILL SOME TIME UNTIL HE CAN TAKE OVER THE REINS FROM SHIGURE.
SAGIRI'S ONLY JUST GOTTEN BACK TO JAPAN.
SHIGURE ALONE IS ENOUGH TO ESCORT ME BACK!
THAT WON'T DO!
THEY CAN LEAVE RIGHT NOW!
JUST MAKE THEM GO!
UNTIL THEN, WE'LL JUST AMUSE OURSELVES
I ASK THAT THEY LEAVE ALSO.
I AGREE...
I AM IN CHARGE OF OVERSEEING THIS MANSION.
YOU MUST LEARN TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS IMPLICITLY!
IF YOU ARE TO BE RESIDING HERE IN SHIGURE-KUN'S PLACE...
BUT...
..LOOKING AFTER SIR RAOUL AND HIS SISTERS WILL BE TOO MUCH FOR SHIGURE ALONE...
WITHOUT SPECIFIC PERMISSION FROM THE MISTRESS OF THIS HOUSE, THE DECISION OF WHO WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAY OVERNIGHT WILL BE AT MY DISCRETION.

...THAT I AM TO RETURN TO PROTECTIVE DUTY OVER SIR REI IMMEDIATELY UPON MY RECOVERY.
OUR CLIENT, MR.BASIL, HAS INSTRUCTED...
-RUSSELL SHIGURE KUROSAKI- AS SIR REI'S BODYGUARD!
TO REPLACE MY YOUNGER BROTHER-
I NDER- STAND.
...
...
...
ONE EEK!
THEY'LL BE RETURNING IMMEDIA-
AND WHAT WILL SIR RAOUL AND THE OTHERS BE DOING DURING THEIR STAY IN JAPAN?

YOUR WOUND...
IT'S COMPLETELY HEALED?
REI...?
YES!
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME.
WILHELM SAGIRI KUROSAKI, NOW REPORTING BACK ON DUTY!
SIR !!

MR. OKUMIYA!!
IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT...
...I WILL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
AKIRA-KUN.
AKIRA-SAN!!
IS IT TRUE THAT MAN IS GOING TO REPLACE MR SHIGURE...?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

SAGIRI-
REI...?
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE COLD?
HE ONCE SAVED YOUR LIFE, DIDN'T HE?
BANG
...NNNG
...LEAVE AND TAKE THEM ALL BACK TO AMERICA WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY!!
!!
REI!
I SEE.
THEN...
...AREN'T NEEDED HERE!!
YOU...

VOL. 7 CHA
僕らの王国
OUR KINGDOM

WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T YOU FEEL WELL...?
-KIRA...
A-
REI...?
TUG
GRIP
JUST RUNNING AWAY AGAIN ..?
HMPH
REI!!
THWAP
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN...?!
OUR KINGDOM VOL. 7 CHAPTER 1 / END

OUR KINGDOM
By
Nadaka Koujima
4
June

SORRY ABOUT THAT BACK THERE...
...FOR LOSING MY COOL SO SUDDENLY.
R...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND MR.SAGIRI?
AKIRA.
ドッ
U...
UMM...

WHOOOSH
PINCH
RUSTLE

DON'T JUMP TO YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS!
I'D NEVER DO THAT!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU TELL ME...
I COULD NEVER HATE YOU!!
IT FELT GOOD...
HAVING YOU PET MY HEAD LIKE THAT...
WHAT?!
THUMP

...IF I TELL YOU...
...YOU'LL HATE ME.
I'M NOT TELLING YOU!
?!!
SHOCK!
WHA...!
BECAUSE...
THAT JUST MAKES ME WANT TO KNOW EVEN MORE-
WHAT DID YOU SAY -?!!
ARRRGGH!
GRAB
RUMPLE
RUMPLE
RUMPLE

YOU'RE STILL SUCH A KID, REI!
THAT GRUMPY FACE OF YOURS...
YOU'RE JUST LIKE MY SON, AKIRA!
THIS SIDE OF YOU - WHEN YOU ACT LIKE A CHILD LIKE THIS...
I LIKE IT, TOO.
...TO DO IT SOME MORE?!
IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S TELLING ME...
REI...
PAT PAT
I REALLY -
- LIKED IT...
BA-THUMP!
METIMES... E ACTS ST LIKE A TTLE KID..!
FLUFF
SO SOFT...
HE USUALLY ACTS SO MATURE, BUT...
ALL THE STUFF ABOUT HIS PAST THAT I DON'T KNOW...
I REALLY WANT TO KNOW A LOT MORE ABOUT HIM, BUT..

...DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE.
"DIE!"
BANG
(IF YOU PULL YOUR TRIGGER IN HATRED...)

IF YOU CAN KNOW HOW THE OTHER PERSON FEELS...
THEN THE OTHER PERSON'S FEELINGS- GOOD OR BAD- WILL BE REVEALED TO YOU, TOO.
YOU HAVE TO BE OPEN WITH YOUR FEELINGS.
NO MATTER WHAT...
...AND STILL BE KIND TO THAT PERSON...
...I GUARANTEE YOU'LL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO FEEL HAPPY.
VERMIN LIKE YOU...

I KNOW THAT!
I TAKE A BATH EVERY DAY!!
HEY - I'M CLEAN, YOU KNOW!!
!!
..?
HUH!
EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS BEAUTIFUL AND PURE, AKIRA.
WHAT?/ BEAUTI-...
BLUSH
WELL, I'LL BE GOING TO BED NOW.
SOMEHOW IT DOESN'T SOUND CONVINCING, COMING FROM SOMEONE ULTRA-HANDSOME LIKE REI!!
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP

GRIP
REI?
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN...
...A PURIST...
<...THEN YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN A COMMON CRIMINAL..>
SHOOT
<THE SAME... AS THEM...>
SHOOT

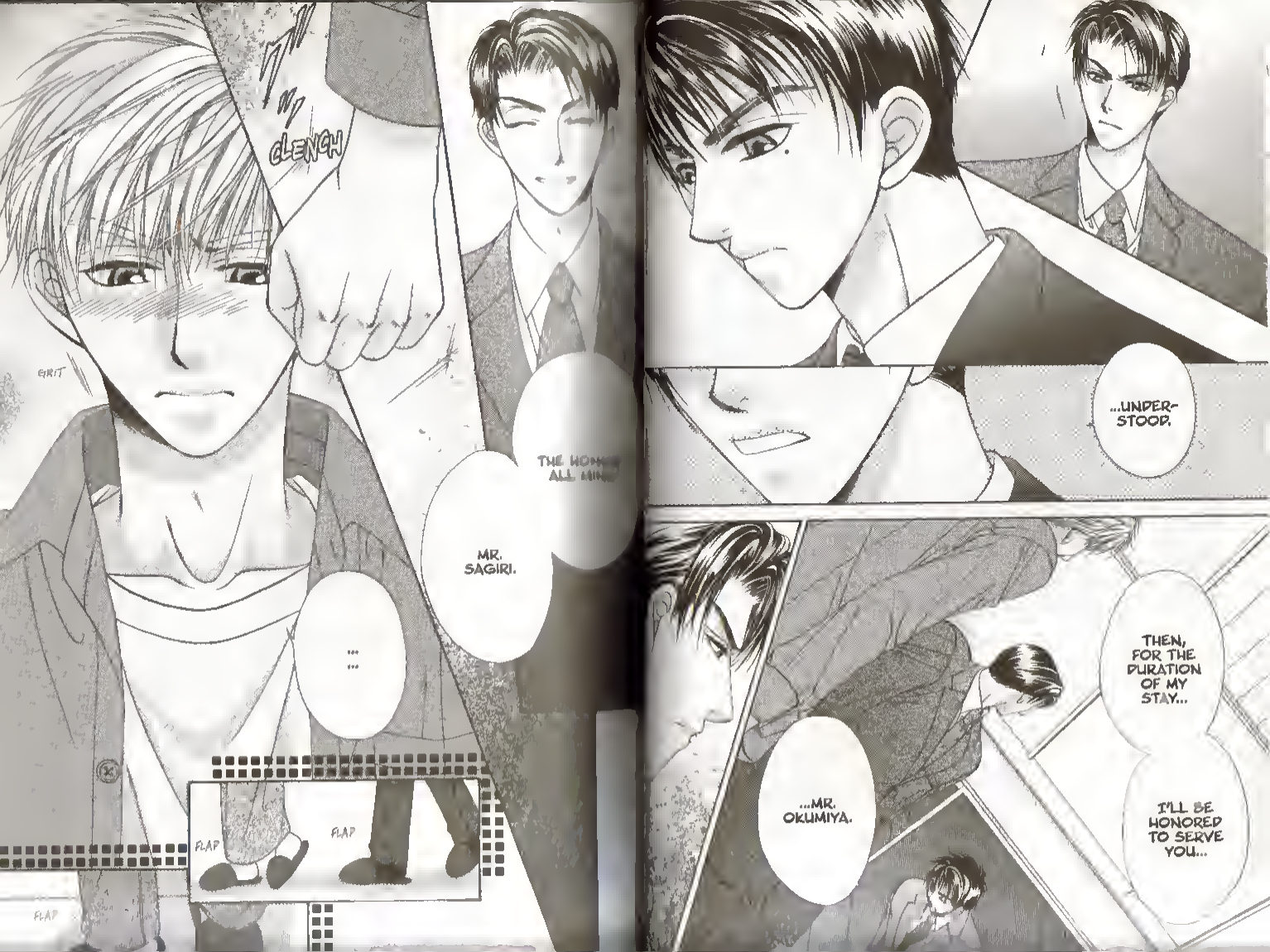
MAYBE I'M STILL NOT ADEQUATE ENOUGH...?
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, AT LEAST...
...I WISH REI WOULD RELY ON ME.
THANK...
MEANWHILE -
(I WANT TO GO TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK TOMORROW, RUSSELL!)
(OH! BUT I WANT TO GO SHOPPING!!)
(WHAT ARE JAPANESE CASTLES LIKE?)
IT... DOESN'T MATTER...
...WHAT IT'S ABOUT...
I...
I'LL BE THERE TO LISTEN WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE TALKING!!
WHAT?
WANNA JOIN ME IN BED?
OH... REI!
GOOD NIGHT.
IT'S NOT THAT!!
...OKAY.

〈YOU'RE A BIG MEANIE, BROTHER!!〉
SNAP
TURN
BOW
DASH
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LOOK AFTER THOSE TWO!
UM... IF YOU LIKE...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCOMPANY US OUT WITH YOUR SISTERS AS WELL, SIR RAOUL?
BESIDES, THEY LIKE BEING WITH YOU BETTER!

〈UM...〉
〈WHERE DO THEY HAVE THE PERFORMING MONKEYS?〉
〈THAT'S RIGHT! SINCE WE'VE COME ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN...〉
〈I WANT TO SEE GEISHAS AND NINJAS!!〉
SHIGURE AS BABY-SITTER
〈LADIES...〉
〈BE QUIET, YOU TWO!〉
...
...
〈SHIGURE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF HANDING THE REINS BACK OVER TO SAGIRI.〉
〈STAY QUIET AND LEAVE HIM ALONE FOR NOW!〉

AS MR. OKUMIYA MENTIONED BEFORE...
...WHILE YOU ARE LIVING HERE UNDER THE TAKATOUS' ROOF IN MY PLACE...
THEN I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU, SAGIRI.
YES!
...PLEASE OBEY ALL OF MR.OKUMIYA'S INSTRUCTIONS.
...IS A VERY TRUSTWORTHY MAN.
LIKE YOU, HE...

THIS WAY, PLEASE.
I WANT TO RELAX NOW.
SILENCE...
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.
UNCOMFORTABLE LULL
UMM
UMM
UM
UM...


I'll
CLENCH
GIRIT
THE HONOR
ALL MINE
MR. SAGIRI.
...
...
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
...UNDER-
STOOD.
THEN, FOR THE DURATION OF MY STAY...
I'LL BE HONORED TO SERVE YOU...
...MR. OKUMIYA.

OH!
RAOUL!!
はったり
FACE-TO-FACE
AKIRA-SAN?!
GRAB
STRANGE?
BORROW?
BUT...
YANAGI-SAN! I NEED TO BORROW HIM FOR A SECOND!!
WHOOSH
OH, MY

OUR KINGDOM 4

OUR KINGDOM VOL.7 (CHAPTER 1) - 3
OUR KINGDOM VOL.7 (CHAPTER 2) - 39
OUR KINGDOM VOL.7 (CHAPTER 3) - 63
OUR KINGDOM VOL.7 (CHAPTER 4) - 95
OUR KINGDOM VOL.7 (CHAPTER 5) - 119
OUR KINGDOM
THE PRINCE CATCHES COLD - 159
OUR KINGDOM
READER'S REQUEST - 167
FRESH 4-FRAME COMICS - 175
AFTERWORD - 177

Translation	*Sachiko Sato*
Lettering	*Replibooks*
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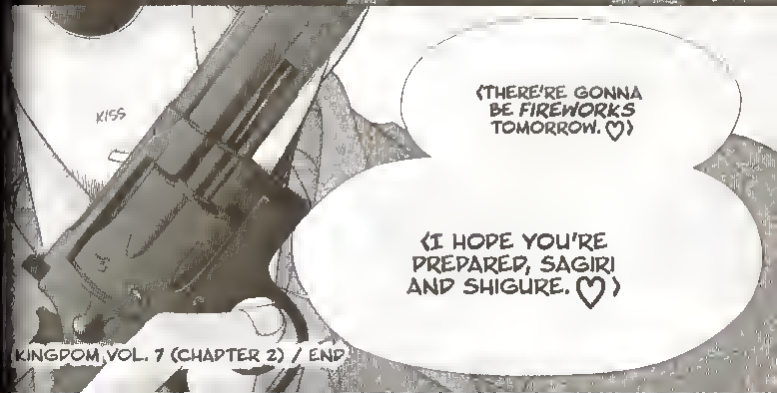
ONLY THIS TIME, YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO ASK ME ABOUT REI WHEN HE WAS IN AMERICA.
LAST TIME IT WAS ABOUT YOUR FATHER
BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF...
IT DOESN'T MATTER!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
PULLING THE SAME EXACT STUNT AS LAST TIME...
YOUR BRAIN REALLY MUST BE THE SIZE OF A MONKEY'S!
WHAT DID YOU SAY - !!
I'LL ASK REI PERSONALLY WHEN HE'S READY TO TELL ME.
I WON'T COME RUNNING TO YOU FOR INFORMATION ANYMORE!
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY!
...
...
MRGH!
SAME LOCATION AS IN VOLUME 2, TOO!

THAT'S RIGHT... JUST LIKE SHIGURE, YOU -
MIGHT BE FUN TO TAKE BACK HOME WITH US...
...
...
...
DANG!
RAOUL ALWAYS HAS ONE WORD TOO MANY TO SAY!
OH!
IF YOU'RE THINKING OF TRYING TO KIDNAP ME LIKE LAST TIME IN ORDER TO VEX REI...
SAYS THIS EVERY TIME
...I WON'T BE TAKEN SO EASILY THIS TIME!!
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME TWICE!
MUMBLE
THAT'S NOT...
...WHAT I MEANT.
HUH?
!!
YOU KNOW - WITH EVERYONE! PARTY♡
LET'S ALL JUST PARTY!
I DON'T NEED TO BE LECTURED BY YOU...
GRR
YOU'VE COME ALL THE WAY FROM AMERICA -
SINCE YOU'RE HERE!
QUIT WASTING YOUR TIME TRYING TO PROVOKE REI!
HAVING TO DEAL WITH ONE IDIOT LIKE YOU IS ENOUGH!
HMPH
SHOCK
IT'LL BE MUCH MORE FUN THAT WAY!
I MEAN, YOUR SISTERS ARE HERE, TOO!



KINGDOM, VOL. 7 (CHAPTER 2) / END

GOOD MORNING, AKIRA.
SMILE
?!!
JOLT
YEAH.
I'M GLAD.
OH - WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME?
...HUH?
OH! MORNING!
ARE YOU STILL HALF ASLEEP OR SOMETHING?
AKIRA
YOU'RE GOING TO BREAKFAST, RIGHT?
LET'S GO TOGETHER.
WHAT?

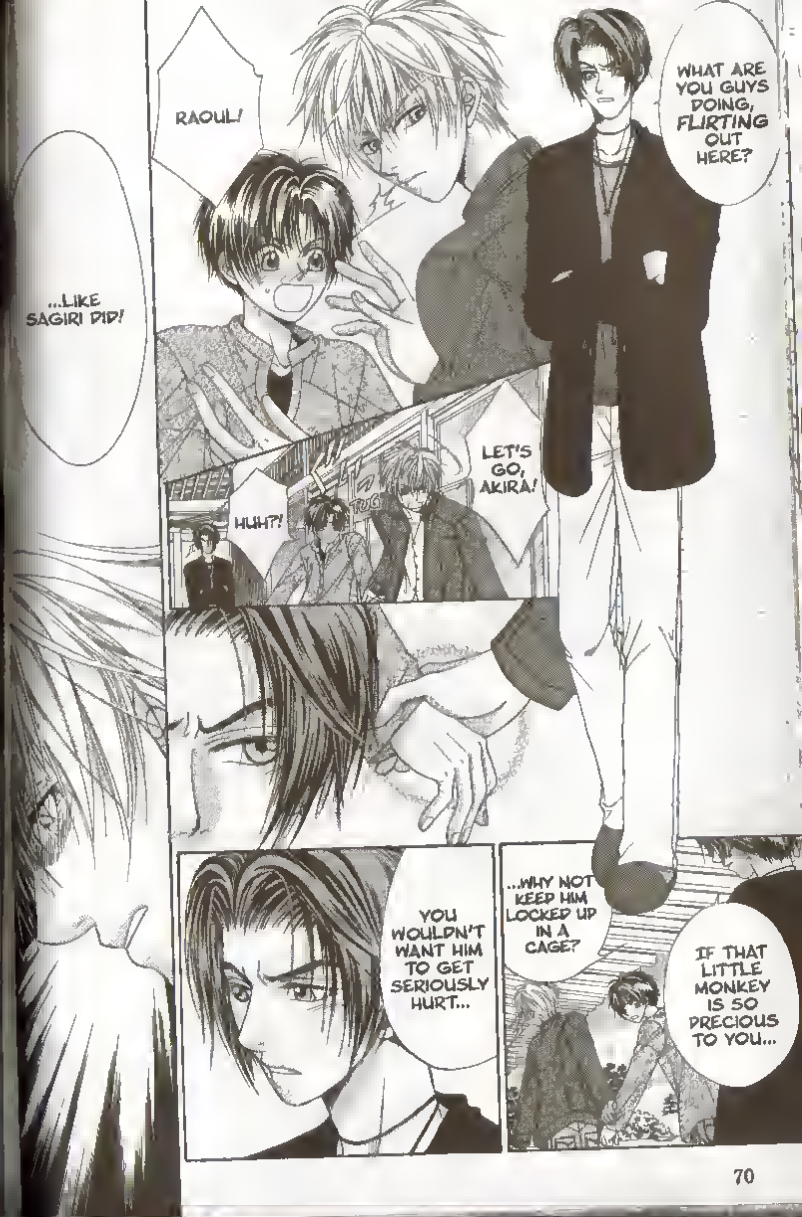
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHEEP
CHEEP
AND NOW IT'S ALREADY MORNING...
OH MAN... I WAS DOING TOO MUCH THINKING.
I TOLD RAOUL LAST NIGHT THAT WE SHOULD ALL PARTY TOGETHER, BUT...
...WITH REI IN THAT MOOD...
SLAP
YAWWNN

HUH? REALLY?! THAT'LL BE GREAT!
SMILE
YOU'RE STILL NOT USED TO USING A COMPUTER YET, RIGHT?
LET'S WATCH IT TOGETHER IN MY ROOM LATER.
TAMAKI LEFT A DISC YESTERDAY WITH FOOTAGE FROM THE CAMPING TRIP.
OH, I JUST REMEMBER!!
WHAT?!
!
...HUH?
I JUST HAPPEN TO BE GOING THE SAME WAY, THAT'S ALL.
UM...REI? YOU KNOW, I CAN FIND THE BATHROOM BY MYSELF NOW...
I HAD THEM BAKE UP AN EXTRA BATCH, SO LET'S EAT IT TOGETHER.
YOU SAID YOU LIKED THIS BREAD-DIDN'T YOU, AKIRA?
UM, REI... ABOUT TODAY.
OH... YEAH, OKAY.
IS THIS... COULD IT BE...
LET'S HURRY UP AND GET TO MY ROOM, AKIRA!
HUH? I HEAR RAOUL'S LITTLE SIS...
YANK
SQUEAL
GIGGLE
THIS...

HM?
MAYBE NOW I CAN INVITE HIM TO PLAY WITH ALL OF US...
OH!
I'VE HAD THEM PREPARE BREAK-FAST IN THE GARDEN SUNROOM TODAY.
HUH? WEREN'T WE HEADING FOR THE DINING ROOM?
THEN ARE RAOUL AND THE OTHERS JOINING US, TOO?
FLINCH
OH...
...
...

NOT WITH THAT GUY...
NOT WITH RAOUL... NOT EVER!
OH...
NO!!
THEY'VE COME ALL THIS WAY AND BE SKIPPING SCHOOL TO HANG OUT FOR ME TOO!
HEY, REI!
THEN I'LL JUST GET IT OVER WITH AND TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT!
HM?
REI CAN BE REALLY CHILDISH WHEN IT COMES TO SITUATIONS LIKE THIS!!
ESPECIALLY WHEN RAOUL IS INVOLVED!
AH...
I FORGOT!
SLUMP
HE'S STILL HOLDING A GRUDGE FROM WHEN RAOUL KIDNAPPED ME BEFORE.
I KNEW IT, REI...
DON'T PUT THAT PRETTY FACE OF YOURS SO CLOSE!!
BLUSH
- THAT YOU'RE NOT SATISFIED JUST BEING ALONE WITH ME, AKIRA?
YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
ARRGH! WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO RETURN TO THAT TRAIN OF THOUGHT?!
LEAN
URK!
SWOON
LET'S GO OUT AND HAVE FUN WITH RAOUL AND HIS LITTLE SISTERS TODAY!
N...NO! I CAN'T LET THAT SMILE OF HIS DETER ME!
WHAT IS IT, AKIRA?
GRIN

!!
WHAP
WHAT?
REI!!
DO YOU THINK I'VE FORGIVEN YOU...
...FOR WHAT YOU DID?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THROWING PUNCHES WITHOUT ANY WARNING...!


...LIKE SAGIRI DID!
RAOUL!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING, FLIRTING OUT HERE?
HUH?!
LET'S GO, AKIRA!
YOU WOULDN'T WANT HIM TO GET SERIOUSLY HURT...
...WHY NOT KEEP HIM LOCKED UP IN A CAGE?
IF THAT LITTLE MONKEY IS SO PRECIOUS TO YOU...

REI...?
...IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A MERE JOKE.
...
...AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT MY GRANNY USED TO SAY WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
BECAUSE TO HEAR REI SAY IT NOW...
BUT, IT'S TRUE.
IT'S TRUE THAT BOTH SIDES WILL FEEL BADLY ABOUT IT, SO...
THAT'LL JUST CANCEL IT RIGHT OUT.
- JUST GO AHEAD AND APOLOGIZE ALREADY!
GO ON! IF YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE BAD LUCK -
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
JUMP!
RUSTLE?
RUN

IF YOU EVER DO ANYTHING TO AKIRA AGAIN...
...I'LL KILL YOU!
BUT... IF YOU EVER...
I'M USED TO BEING JUDGED...
...BY PEOPLE WHO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ME.
ぽっちん
SLAP
BOTH THE PERSON WHO SAYS IT AND THE PERSON IT WAS SAID TO -
- THEY'LL BOTH BE CURSED AND HAVE BAD LUCK!!
YOU SHOULD NEVER SAY YOU'RE GOING TO KILL SOMEONE - NOT EVER!

RIGHT?!
YOU'RE COMING, TOO - RIGHT, REI?
...
...
RAOUL! WE'VE GOT TO GET SOME ICE ON YOUR FACE!!
PULL
YIKES!
REI DOESN'T KNOW HIS OWN STRENGTH! ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T BREAK A TOOTH?
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BIG BROTHER, TOO - AREN'T YOU?
OH! AND YOU TWO! HIS LITTLE SISTERS!
COME LATER IF YOU GET WORRIED ABOUT HIM!
THEN JUST RAOUL HAVE YANAGI SAN TAKE A LOOK AT HIM!
POUT
...
...
WHY CAN'T THEY ALL...
...JUST GET ALONG?
EEEEEK!!
JUMP
!!
FLING
FLING
〈NOOO! THE BARBARIANS HAVE NOTICED USSSS!!〉
〈DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TEACH YOU THAT EAVESDROPPING IS RUDE?!〉
NOOOO!
〈MONSTERRR!!〉
〈HURRY! RUN, MAGGIE! WE'LL BE KILLED - !!〉
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
GRAB
!!
DRIBBLE
BLOOD
〈MON...〉
SNAP
〈WHO ARE YOU CALLING A...〉
!!

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
(...HMM.)
VOL. 7
僕の王国
OUR KINGDOM

IT'S NEVER BOTHERED ME THAT HE ADDRESSES ME FAMILIARLY!
OF COURSE THAT PISSES HIM OFF.
NOT IN THE LEAST!
AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T MIND...?
IT'S UP TO YOU HOW YOU CHOOSE TO ADDRESS HIM.
NO.
SHIGURE-KUN ALWAYS BOASTED ABOUT YOU AS IF HE WERE SINGING HIS OWN PRAISES.
IS THAT SO? I'M VERY INTERESTED, NONETHELESS.
IT'S NO USE COMPARING SHIGURE TO SAGIRI.
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU ARE WELL-TRAINED IN THE MARTIAL ARTS YOURSELF, MR.SAGIRI.
I'D BE HONORED TO SPAR WITH YOU SOMETIME.
JOLT!
MY SKILLS ARE NOTHING TO SPEAK OF.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
MR. SHIGURE'S HAD TO LOOK AFTER ALL OF THEM UP TILL NOW..
HE'S AMAZING IN A WAY.
THEY USE THE TAKATOU-OWNED GYM NEARBY, THIS PLACE IS FAR TOO ANCIENT, ANYWAY.
WHAT ABOUT THE SECURITY PERSONNEL OF THIS MANSION?
WHAT IS THIS DOJO FOR, MR. OKUMIYA?
RECENTLY, SHIGURE-KUN...
...HAS BECOME MY PARTNER IN TRAINING.
SHIGURE-KUN?
IT WAS BUILT FOR THE OKUMIYAS OF OLD TO INSTRUCT THE TAKATOUS IN THE MARTIAL ARTS
I'M THE ONLY ONE THAT USES IT NOWADAYS, THOUGH.
YES. I FIND IT THE MOST FITTING WAY OF ADDRESSING HIM.
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT? MR.SAGIRI?

WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT HAVING THE SAME KIND OF WAGER THAT I'VE HAD WITH YOU, SHIGURE-KUN.
WITH ME...?
IF I WIN, MY PRIZE WILL BE...
...YOU, SHIGURE-KUN.
BLUSH
U, UM..
I...I'M SORRY. I HAVE OTHER BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!
EXCUSE ME!
AH...HE MUST'VE IMAGINED SOMETHING... INAPPROPRIATE...
PARDON ME FOR ASKING, BUT WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WAGERED WITH SHIGURE?
DOES IT BOTHER YOU?

THAT KID... SHIGURE WILL NEVER BE LIKE SAGIRI.
SAGIRI'S SPECIAL.
RUSSELL AND WIL LOOK NOTHING ALIKE, DO THEY? THEIR PERSONALITIES ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, TOO.
WELL, THEY'VE GOT DIFFERENT MOTHERS.
...RUSSELL ISN'T THE CHILD OF MR. KUROSAKI'S CURRENT WIFE.
IF I RECALL...
WELL, I GUESS THAT ABOUT DOES IT.
SHIGURE-KUN.
HUH?!
!
OH - YES!!
...I'M SORRY.
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING?
WHAT?!
...WILL YOU ACT AS REFEREE?
LIKE I JUST SAID, MR.SAGIRI AND I WILL HAVE A LITTLE MATCH HERE AND NOW, SO...

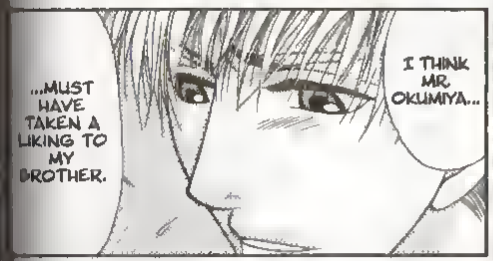
BUT IF I WIN...
YOU WILL FOLLOW MY EVERY ORDER TO THE LETTER.
IF YOU WIN, I WILL NEVER AGAIN HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO DO IN THIS MANSION.
THEN, AS I STATED EARLIER...
I SEE
I UNDERSTAND.
GRAB
WHOA!
SHIGURE-KUN!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE LOOKING DEPRESSED.

YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIM SEEMS MIGHTY COLD, IF THAT'S THE CASE.
IS THAT SO?
I AM STILL SHIGURE'S OLDER BROTHER.
OF COURSE I AM CONCERNED OVER MY YOUNGER SIBLING'S WELFARE.
...
..
...AND IT IS ALSO MY PERSONALITY WHICH GIVES THAT IMPRESSION.
WE ARE ON-DUTY NOW...
...SINCE I BELIEVE THAT HE IS NOT FIT FOR THIS JOB.
I WILL NEVER GIVE SHIGURE MY APPROVAL...
...IT'S ONLY IF HE WINS, I AGREE TO "ACKNOWLEDGE" HIM... THAT'S ALL.
WELL, I SAY "WAGER," BUT...
APPARENTLY HE WANTS APPROVAL FROM ME...
...SINCE I RESEMBLE YOU - HIS BIG BROTHER.
STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S MY LINE!
WE RESEMBLE EACH OTHER?
HOW

I MUST FOLLOW THE ORDERS OF MY SUPERIORS!
HUH?!
Y...YES! IT'S MY JOB...
THEN WILL YOU BE RETURNING TO AMERICA SOON, SHIGURE-KUN?
MY BROTHER IS MUCH MORE ADEPT THAN I AM.
YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE?
TH... THAT'S...
...OF SOMEONE WITH THAT KIND OF ENERGY AND DRIVE, TOO. DON'T YOU THINK?
AS FOR THE HIRING CLIENT...
I'M SURE THEY'D PREFER TO LEAVE THE JOB IN THE HANDS...
IF IT WERE ME
IF IT WERE A JOB I THOUGHT WORTH DOING, I'D TRY TO STEAL IT AWAY FROM THE COMPETITION.
...
...
I...

A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME THAT YOUR BIG BROTHER WAS HERE.♡
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
SIR YUJI?!
HI♡
FROM WHAT I HEAR, HE'S QUITE THE BEAUTY.
SO, I JUST THOUGHT I'D DROP BY TO HAVE A LOOK FOR MYSELF.

FOR OKUMIYA TO TRY TO TAKE CONTROL OVER SOMEONE HE DISLIKES, WITH BRUTE FORCE... HE MUST BE BACKED INTO A CORNER.
HE'S USUALLY SO OUT-THERE...
SMIRK
SMIRK
HO-HO! THAT SOUNDS FUN.♡


...MUST HAVE TAKEN A LIKING TO MY BROTHER.
I THINK MR. OKUMIYA...

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SAGIRI, HE'S HAVING A MATCH WITH MR.OKUMIYA IN THE DOJO.
A MATCH?!

IT'S TOTALLY SWOLLEN, RAOUL!
YOUR FACE...
ANYWAY - ARE YOU SURE...
HUH?
...YOU SHOULD EVEN BE HERE LIKE THIS?
THANK YOU, YANAGI-SAN
I'LL CALL THE DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY.
NO WAY! THAT PUNCH WAS SERIOUS!!
THIS IS EVEN AFTER I MANAGED TO GUARD!
I GUESS REI MUST HAVE PULLED HIS PUNCH A BIT.
IT'S A GOOD THING NO TEI TH WERE BROKEN!
HMPH!
...THAT REI PUNCHED YOU, SO...
...BUT AFTER ALL, IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME..
UHH.. PROBABLY NOT.
OH... PARDON ME!
I'M BABBLING... PLEASE EXCUSE ME NOW!
...IS MY BROTHER'S APPROVAL.
ALL I WANT NOW...
I SEE!
NOW THIS...
...IS GOING TO BE COMPLICATED -
JUST LIKE HE SAID IT WOULD BE.♡
OH, WOW - !
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT...
..TO DO ANY SUCH THING.

SO YOU DO FIND THEM CUTE?
...I GUESS.
YEAH, SHE DOES TAKE AFTER ME IN GOOD LOOKS.
THE ONE WITH THE LONG HAIR EVEN RESEMBLES YOU A LITTLE.
I BOUGHT THOSE OUTFITS FOR THEM, YOU KNOW.
HMPH!
THEY LOOK LIKE A LITTLE MATCHING SET OF DOLLS WHEN THEY'RE TOGETHER!
I KNEW IT.♡
BLUSH
!!
HAHAHA
YOU THINK SO?
TO THEM, I MAY AS WELL BE A COMPLETE STRANGER.
BUT MY SISTERS GREW UP MOSTLY IN FRANCE WITH MY FATHER.
I LIVED APART FROM THEM SO THEY'RE NOT VERY AFFECTIONATE TOWARDS ME

IT'S BECAUSE YOU SPOIL HIM LIKE THIS...
...THAT HE ACTS SO INSOLENT!
HMPH!
WITHOUT ANY DEEP MEANING
RAOUL, ARE YOU JEALOUS?
FLARE
HEY - YOUR LITTLE SISTERS... THEY'RE SO ENERGETIC AND CUTE!
I'M JEALOUS... I DON'T HAVE ANY SIBLINGS.
THEY'RE JUST A BIG PAIN.
...YOU COULD EVENTUALLY BECOME FRIENDS.
PROBABLY I THINK
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IF YOU'VE GOT THAT MUCH INTEREST IN REI...
MMM
THE INSIDE OF YOUR MOUTH IS ALL CUT UP, SO TRY NOT TO SPEAK SO MUCH.
OH!
...
...
...!!
GRR!
NO WAY! NOT WITH THAT -!
PANG

FOR REI TO SUDDENLY ACT SO STRANGELY...
...I FEEL LIKE MR.SHIGURE IS MORE SUITED FOR SOMEONE LIKE REI
...THAN MR.SAGIRI IS...
...SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.
...
I TAKE IT BACK!
WHAT?!
HMPH
MRRGH!
BOW
THEN- PLEASE!
JUST LIKE THAT?!
...I'LL CONSIDER IT.
IF YOU BOW YOUR HEAD DOWN AND PLEA... TO ME...
REALLY?!
(IS BIG BROTHER FRIENDS WITH THAT MONKEY?)
(THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN...)
STARE...
'CUZ DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE ACTUALLY A PRETTY NICE GUY.
...THEY'D SOON GROW TO LOVE YOU AS THEIR BIG BROTHER, TOO.
I THINK IF YOU WERE MORE HONEST AND KIND TOWARD THEM...
I'M REALLY FOND OF MR. SHIGURE.
I KNOW IT'S TO DO WITH HIS JOB AND ALL, BUT...
COULDN'T WE LET HIM STAY HERE?
IS IT JUST ME OR IS SHIGURE TREATED MORE LIKE A MINION OF THEIRS?!
BESIDES, LOOK HOW THEY COMPLETELY IDOLIZE A TOTAL STRANGER LIKE MR.SHIGURE!
HEY... IS IT TRUE MR.SHIGURE REALLY HAS TO RETURN TO AMERICA?
...
...
...YEAH.

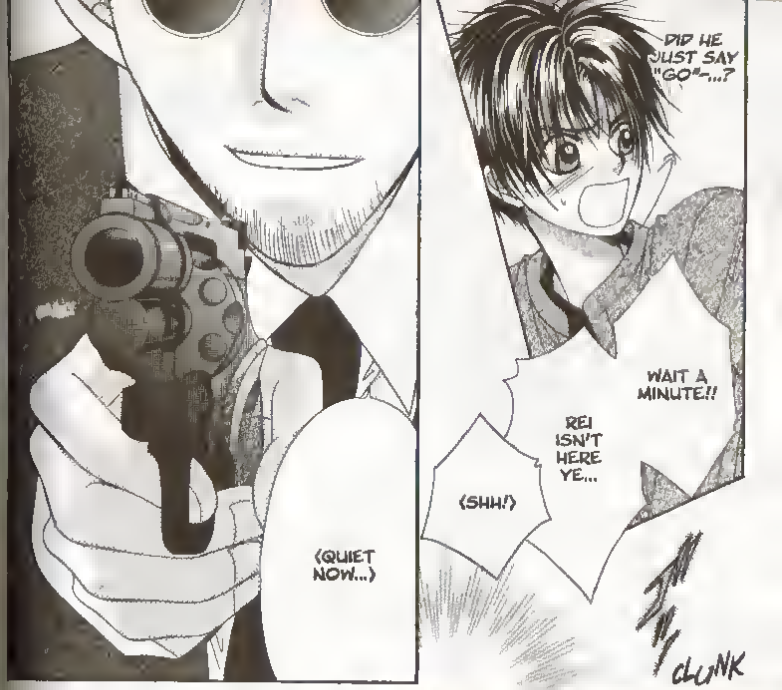
THEN I'LL GO.
LET'S SEE...
SOMEONE ELSE...
THEN I'LL GO GET REI -
WHAT?!
BUT DOESN'T REI DISLIKE UNCLE YUJI...?
I'VE GOT A LITTLE SURPRISE PLANNED AFTER THIS, YOU SEE ♡
...CAN GO GET HIM.
...IF OKUMIYA FINDS OUT ABOUT OUR EXCURSION, SO...
IT'LL BE SUCH A BOTHER...
...YOU GUYS GO WAIT IN MY CAR PARKED AROUND BACK.
AND BE GOOD.♡
DON'T GET CAUGHT

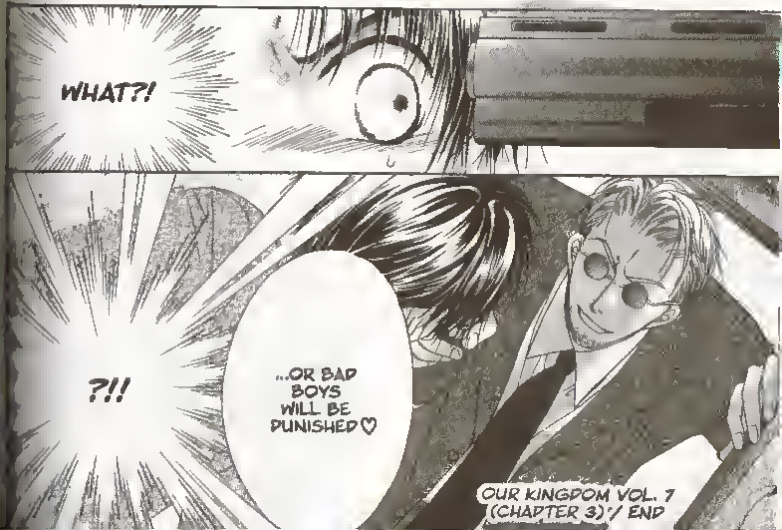
YIKES!
〈OH, MY - IT'S NOT VERY LADYLIKE TO BE SNOOPING AROUND LIKE THIS.〉
〈REALLY?! ♡〉
I WAS JUST ASKING THESE TWO LOVELY GIRLS IF THEY'D LIKE A SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF JAPAN.♡
〈SIGHTSEEING?! YEAH, YEAH!!〉
〈"LADIES"? AT LEAST YOU KNOW ONE WHEN YOU SEE ONE!〉
HUH?! CAN WE REALLY?!
WON'T YOU GUYS JOIN US, AKIRA?
WHY ARE YOU WITH THOSE TWO, UNCLE YUJI?!
HUH?!
〈W...WE'RE NOT SNOOPING!〉
〈WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?!〉
A KIDNAPPER?!
!!
〈WE'RE BUSTED?!!〉

MR.OKUMIYA! THERE'S TROUBLE!!
JUST AS I THOUGHT... NO HOLES IN HIS DEFENSES.
WHOOSH
PART OF THE SECURITY SYSTEM HAS BEEN SHUT-OFF- SOMEONE HAS GAINED ACCESS FROM OUTSIDE!!
A FOREIGN GUY...?!
RIGHT THIS WAY.
(OK, GO - !!)
HUH?!

...WE'D GET CAUGHT BY THE SECURITY GUYS, BUT...
USUALLY, RIGHT ABOUT THIS POINT...
WHIP
IS THIS REALLY OKAY...?
(I WONDER IF WE'LL GET TO SEE SAMURAIS?)
(WHAT ABOUT THE TRAINED MONKEYS?)

VOL. 7 CHAPTER 3
僕らの王国
OUR KINGDOM


DID HE JUST SAY "GO"-...?
WAIT A MINUTE!!
REI ISN'T HERE YE...
(SHH!)
(QUIET NOW...)
CLUNK


WHAT?!
?!!
...OR BAD BOYS WILL BE PUNISHED♡
OUR KINGDOM VOL. 7 (CHAPTER 3) / END

(SAGIRI...)*
(HIS ARM SEEMS TO HAVE HEALED...)
(...IS ALMOST AT AN END.)
GNAK
(WHICH MEANS...)
(...SHIGURE'S APPOINTED TIME AS REI'S BODYGUARD...)

*( ) IN ENGLISH.

HAS RAOUL TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS?!
SIR REI -
I APOLOGIZE. THIS INCIDENT IS COMPLETELY MY FAULT.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE HAVING A MATCH IN YOUR DOJO, LETTING YOUR PERSONAL AFFAIRS INTERFERE WITH YOUR DUTIES - RIGHT?
YES, BUT...
I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE THE SECURITY SYSTEM HAD BEEN BREACHED AND...
TWITCH
I KNOW NOTHIN
...
...

YES.
TO BE PRECISE, RAOUL AND HIS TWO SISTERS ARE MISSING AS WELL.
THEY ARE NOWHERE ON THESE PREMISES...
...
...
...
AKIRA'S...
...GONE?

OH! SO YOU MUST BE SHIGURE-KUN'S OLDER BROTHER SAGIRI!
HMM?
...?
GRAB
...YOUR FACE - IT'S STILL MY TYPE.♡
YOU LOOK YOUNG FOR YOUR AGE
YOU LOOK NOTHING LIKE HIM, BUT...
SLAM
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO GO OUT -
TILT
- FOR DINNER SOMETIME?
!!
HOW BOLD IN THIS SITUATION!
TSUNE!

HM?
...I ALREADY SUSPECT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ABDUCTION.
SIR RAOUL AND HIS SISTERS ARE MY VALUABLE CLIENTS.
NO MATTER WHAT MOTHER MAY SAY, SHE STILL CAN'T DENY HER PRECIOUS LITTLE SON.♡
HAHAHAHA HA
I WAS SURE THE MISTRESS OF THE HOUSE AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNEW THE SECURITY SYSTEM PASSWORD, BUT...?
IF MADAM REALLY DISLIKES SIR YUJI, AS SHE CLAIMS
I WISH SHE'D JUST DISOWN HIM ALREADY
PLEASE STOP JOKING AROUND!
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS TAKE AKIRA AND THE OTHERS OUT TO PLAY.
WON'T YOU TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW?
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY'VE GONE.

YOU KNOW WHERE AKIRA AND THE OTHERS ARE?
OKUMIYA
YES.
WE'VE ALREADY IDENTIFIED THE CAR THEY WERE TAKEN AWAY IN.
I'VE GOT SOME OF OUR MEN OUT TO FOLLOW THEM NOW.
THIS AREA IS HEAVILY MONITORED BY SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS, SO
SIR RAOUL'S CELL IS ALSO TURNED OFF.
...IF AKIRA-KUN HADN'T FORGOTTEN TO TAKE ALONG HIS GPS-ATTACHED GOOD-LUCK CHARM OR HIS CELL PHONE...
...WE WOULD HAVE AN EASIER TIME LOCATING HIM.
...
...
FLINCH
SINCE HE YUKI IS INVOLVED
SO PLEASE DON'T WORRY YOURSELF, SIR REI.
...I AM SURE THERE IS NO RISK TO THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY.

HE'S THINKING, "HA! HE DESERVED THAT!"
UNINTERESTED
YIKES!
WINK WINK
WHISPER
IF YOU DON'T TELL US...
...I CAN FORCE IT OUT, IF YOU PREFER.
KEATH IS HERE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO INTERROGATE ME. I PREFER THAT WE BE ALONE.♡
?!
WELL, SEE YOU ALL LATER.♡
THAT'S THAT
I UNDERSTAND.

WHAT?! N...NO!!
W...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...YOU THINK YOU COULD KILL A MAN?
WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO KILL IN ORDER TO PROTECT ME?
AS SAGIRI'S REPLACEMENT...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE...
...ANYONE ELSE DIE AROUND ME ANYMORE!
YOU'RE YOU... YOU'RE NOT JUST A REPLACEMENT FOR SAGIRI
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE PEOPLE DIE, QUIT THIS JOB NOW!
...BACK IN AMERICA... THAT'S WHY...
...HE HIMSELF HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF SEVERAL ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPINGS
HOW DO YOU DO, SIR REI?
AS A REPLACEMENT FOR MY OLDER BROTHER SAGIRI, I HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED AS YOUR NEW BODYGUARD STARTING TODAY.
MY NAME IS RUSSELL SHIGURE KUROSAKI
I'M GOING AFTER THEM, TOO! SHIGURE - GET THE CAR!
I BEG YOUR PARDON - I SPOKE OUT-OF-TURN.
YES, SIR!
WHAT IS IT, SHIGURE-KUN?
UM...MR. OKUMIYA!
SIR REI IS REALLY VERY WORRIED FOR AKIRA-SAN!
SIR REI...
ARE THOSE THE WORDS OF SOMEONE ENTRUSTED WITH AKIRA'S WELL-BEING?!
HOW DARE YOU!
"DON'T WORRY"?!

RUSTLE
MR. OKUMI...!
PULSE
HURRY ON, NOW.
DON'T KEEP SIR REI WAITING.
AND MOST OF ALL
...FOR MY SAKE - BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO REMAIN HERE IN THIS HOUSEHOLD!
AS SOON AS I'M INFORMED OF THE SITUATION, I'LL CONTACT YOU, TOO.
Y... YES SIR!
PULSE
CLENCH

NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR SAGIRI.
AT THAT MOMENT, I FELT SHAKEN...
...THAT A BOY OF FIFTEEN HAD SEEN THROUGH MY OWN DOUBTS.
BUT WHEN I SAW SIR REI IN THAT SITUATION... WHERE HE WAS FORCED TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
...IT MADE ME WANT TO PROTECT HIM EVEN MORE.
FOR SIR REI'S SAKE...
AND FOR OUR OWN PERSONAL SAKE.
PERHAPS YOU...
...ARE THE ONE SIR REI NEEDS TO GUARD HIM, AFTER ALL.
AND NOT JUST AS SAGIRI'S REPLACEMENT.

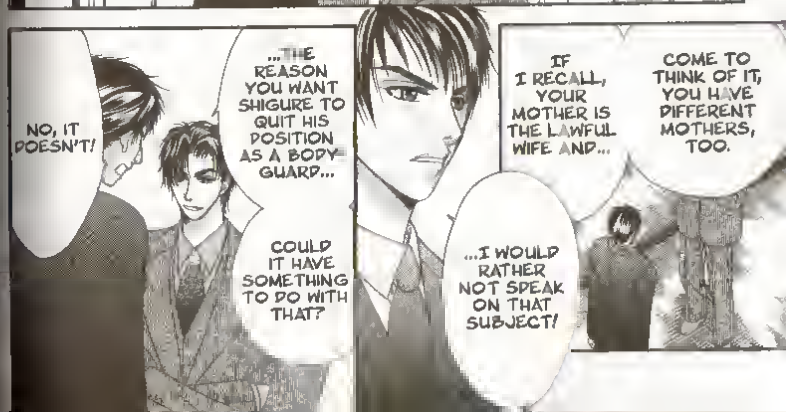
THIS PLAN SEEMED LIKE FUN, SO I HELPED HIM OUT.
BUT NOW THAT YOU KNOW KEATH IS HERE IN JAPAN...
...AND WE'RE IN THIS SITUATION... YOU CAN ADD TWO AND TWO TOGETHER, RIGHT?
FOR SOME REASON, WE JUST SEEMED TO GET ALONG -♡
HA HA HA HA
NOW WE'RE DRINKING BUDDIES♡
...THE TWO OF YOU ARE BEING TESTER
IT MEANS...
SO BLUNT!
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT SHIGURE IS ILL-SUITED FOR THIS JOB.
ISN'T HE A CHILD, TOO?
IS THAT THE OLDER BROTHER IN YOU TALKING?
THAT'S WHY I THINK IT BEST THAT HE RETURN TO BABYSITTING THE CHILDREN.
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
WHY? ME, I CAN UNDERSTAND, BUT SHIGURE? THERE SHOULD BE NO NEED TO TEST HIM..

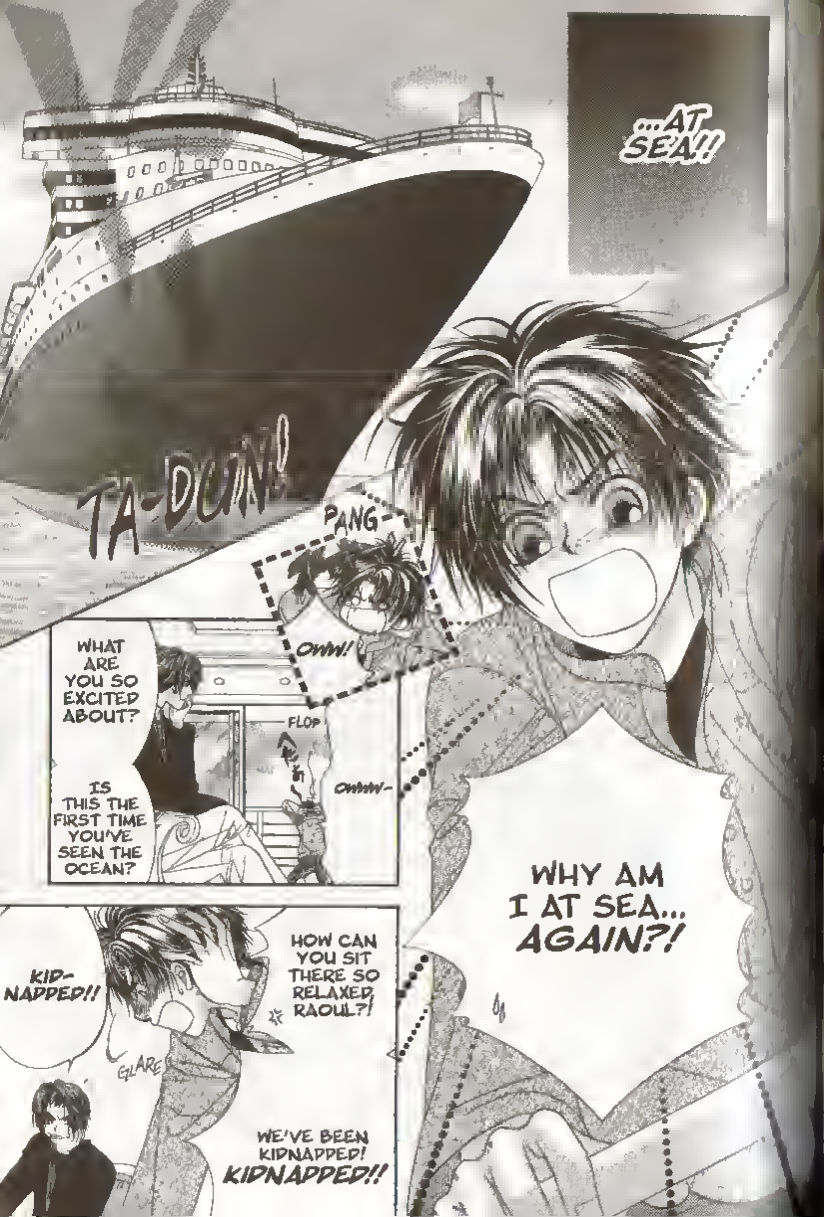
HOW...
...DO YOU KNOW HIM?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT -
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU WERE ONCE SIR REI'S BODYGUARD, RIGHT?
MUST'VE BEEN A CHORE, EH? TAKING CARE OF THAT SPOILED LITTLE PRINCE...
AFTER THAT...
HE... DANIEL KEATH... DID ME A LITTLE SERVICE WHEN I WAS IN THE MIDDLE EAST ON SOME BUSINESS.
THAT'S HOW I KNOW HIM.
HA HA HA
FLIK
MY MY, AREN'T YOU HASTY!
I'M TRYING TO HAVE A SERIOUS CONVERSATION.
SHK

I WANT TO RETURN THE FAVOR FOR ALL THE CARE YOU'VE GIVEN ME...!
IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T WANT HIM TO CONTINUE THIS LINE OF WORK.
AT LEAST NOT OUT OF SOME SENSE OF OBLIGATION!!
GRIN
...WITH THIS ONE KISS...
KISS
SO, THAT'S THE REAL REASON! YOU'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY FRATERNAL, AREN'T YOU?♡
THEN I GUESS NOW...

- YES.
EVEN SPEAKING PROFESSIONALLY, SHIGURE IS A LIABILITY!
...
...

NOTHING...
WHAT?
SO, THE OLDER BROTHER DOESN'T KNOW THE FEELINGS OF HIS YOUNGER..

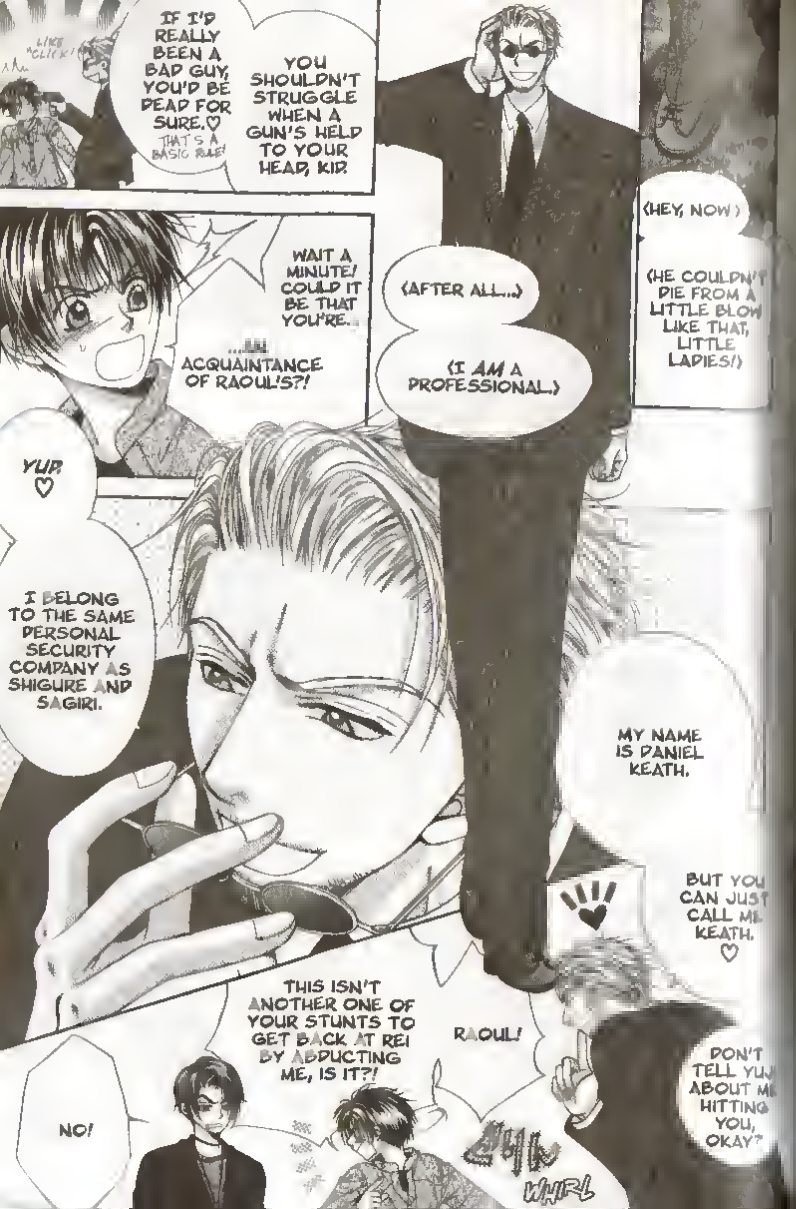

NO, IT DOESN'T!
...THE REASON YOU WANT SHIGURE TO QUIT HIS POSITION AS A BODY GUARD...
COULD IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT?
IF I RECALL, YOUR MOTHER IS THE LAWFUL WIFE AND...
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU HAVE DIFFERENT MOTHERS, TOO.
...I WOULD RATHER NOT SPEAK ON THAT SUBJECT!


...AT SEA!!
TA-DUN!
PANG-
OWW!
FLOP
OWWW-
WHAT ARE YOU SO EXCITED ABOUT?
IS THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN THE OCEAN?
WHY AM I AT SEA... AGAIN?!
KID-NAPPED!!
GLARE
HOW CAN YOU SIT THERE SO RELAXED, RAOUL?!
WE'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED! KIDNAPPED!!

LET'S SEE... I WONDER IF THEY'VE ALREADY SET SAIL BY NOW?
PLEASE DO - QUICKLY!
ARGH! NO REACTION AT ALL!
...I'LL TELL YOU WHERE AKIRA AND THE OTHERS ARE.
SMILE
IT'LL BE DIFFICULT CATCHING UP TO THEM!
...SET SAIL...?
SPLISH
TREMBLE
SPLASH
WHEN I AWOKE, I FOUND MYSELF...
SPLASH
WH... A...

BOOM
SO, I SEE YOU ADMIT IT.
YOUR STUPIDITY
WHAT ABOUT ME...?
...
...
...
...ALWAYS SO STUPID?
DOESN'T BEING WITH ME...
...REASSURE YOU AT ALL?
HE'S PROBABLY WORRYING AGAIN...
...RAOUL?

HE KNOCKED YOU OUT BECAUSE YOU WERE MAKING A FUSS.
SHUT UP!
WHACK
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GO ALONG QUIETLY IN A SITUATION LIKE THAT
YOU REALLY ARE THE TYPE TO GET KILLED NOT A TRY
SHOCK
WHAT?!
EXCEPT FOR THE ONES ON THE SEAWARD SIDE, ALL THE EXITS HAVE BEEN LOCKED!
WE'RE CAPTIVES!
ONE MINUTE, A BLONDE FOREIGN MAN IS SUDDENLY POINTING A GUN AT ME...
...AND NEXT THING I KNOW, I WAKE UP HERE...!
BANG!
OH...
WHY...
REI...
...AM I...
? WHAT'S WRONG? DOES YOUR HEAD HURT?
...
...


IF I'D REALLY BEEN A BAD GUY, YOU'D BE DEAD FOR SURE.♡
THAT'S A BASIC RULE!
YOU SHOULDN'T STRUGGLE WHEN A GUN'S HELD TO YOUR HEAD, KID.
WAIT A MINUTE! COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE...
...ACQUAINTANCE OF RAOUL'S?!
(AFTER ALL...)
(I AM A PROFESSIONAL.)
(HEY, NOW)
(HE COULDN'T DIE FROM A LITTLE BLOW LIKE THAT, LITTLE LADIES!)
YUP ♡
I BELONG TO THE SAME PERSONAL SECURITY COMPANY AS SHIGURE AND SAGIRI.
MY NAME IS DANIEL KEATH.
BUT YOU CAN JUST CALL ME KEATH. ♡
THIS ISN'T ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR STUNTS TO GET BACK AT REI BY ABDUCTING ME, IS IT?!
RAOUL!
DON'T TELL YUU ABOUT ME HITTING YOU, OKAY?
NO!
WHIRL

(WE'RE RIGHT HERE -♡)
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!! RAOUL - WE HAVE TO HURRY AND FIND YOUR SISTERS!!
SLAM
YOUR WOUND'S BEEN TREATED...
WHAP
HUH?
(YOU WERE OUT COLD TOO LONG, MONKEY-BOY!!)
(WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!)

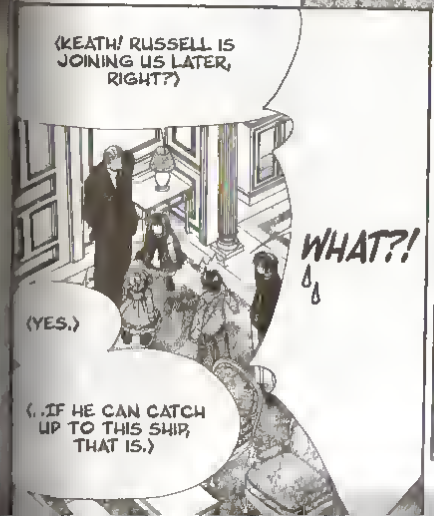
VOL. 7 CHAPTER
僕らの王国
OUR KINGDOM

(BUT I'M SURE THOSE GUYS AREN'T THE TYPE TO STAND IDLY BY...)
(...AFTER HAVING YOU KIDS NABBED RIGHT FROM UNDER THEIR NOSES.♡)
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE SAYING!
I KNOW.
(AFTER ALL, WE HAVE A BIG EVENT PLANNED AFTER THIS.)
GRIN
(IT WOULDN'T DO FOR THEM TO BE LATE!)
YOU'RE TAKING ME BACK TO AMERICA WITH YOU?!
RAOUL! IT'S NOT TRUE, IS IT...?!
I AM.

(THEY SAID WE'RE ALL JUST GOING BACK TO AMERICA NOW.)
(UH-HUH.)

HUH?

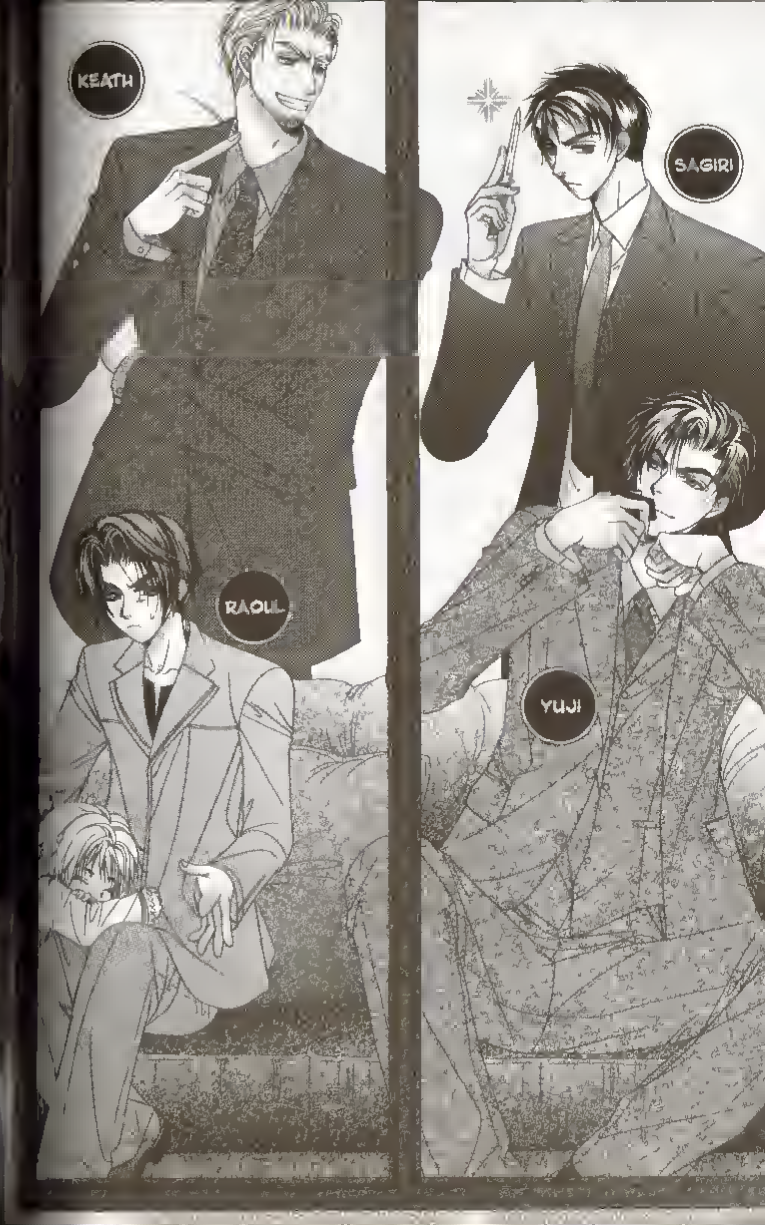
THE REASON I HAD YOU BROUGHT HERE...
...HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH REI!
THEN WHY?!


(KEATH! RUSSELL IS JOINING US LATER, RIGHT?)
WHAT?!
(YES.)
(...IF HE CAN CATCH UP TO THIS SHIP, THAT IS.)

(YES!)
DID SHE JUST SAY IN ENGLISH... "WE'RE ALL GOING BACK TO AMERICA"...?
EXCELLENT!
CLAP CLAP

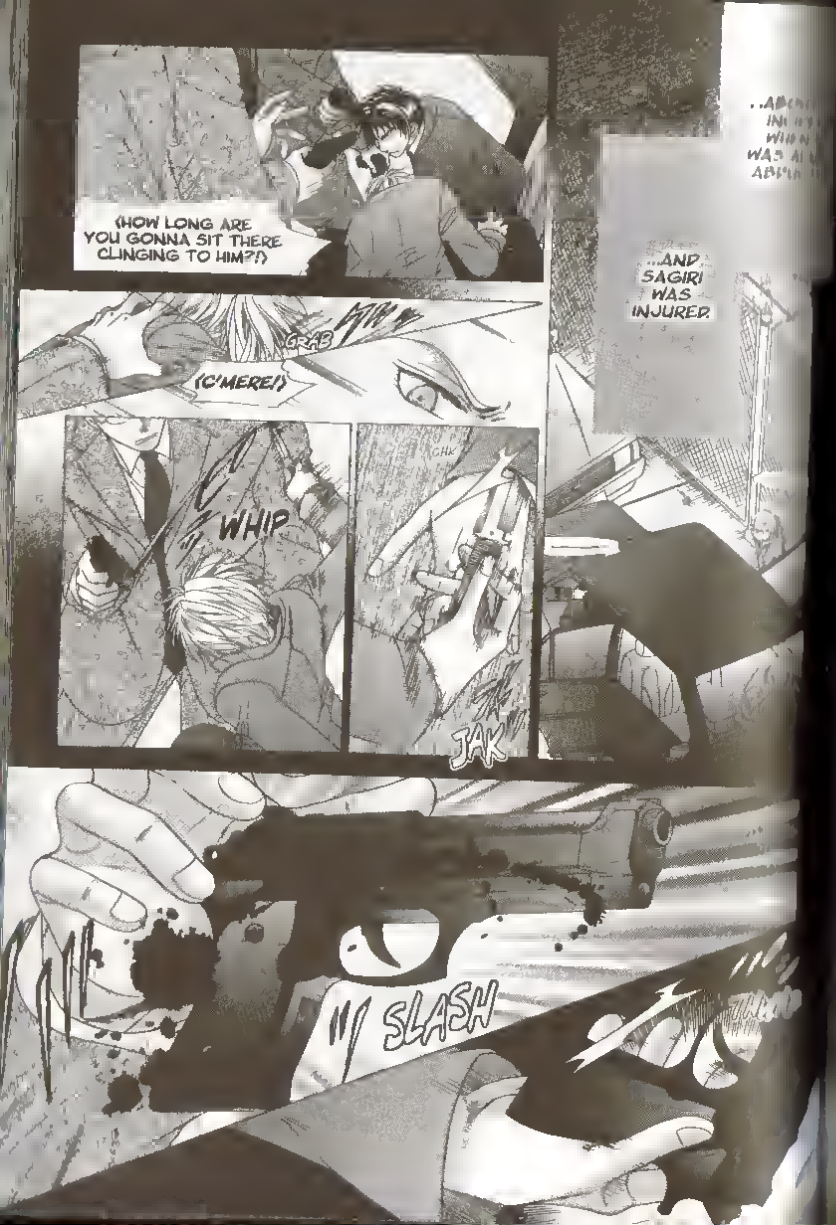
DOOOOM
...IS THIS HAPPENING AGAIN?
WHY...!
僕らの王国
OUR KINGDOM
BAM
BAM
(WE WILL NOT!)
HEY, KID!
(KEATH! HOW DARE YOU SAY SOMETHING SO VULGAR!!)
IF YOU DON'T COME OUTTA THERE SOON, THE LITTLE LADIES SAY THEY'RE GONNA WET THEIR PANTS.
ARRGH...
HAVEN'T I LEARNED...
...ANY-THING AT ALL...?!
IN BATHROOM
! NOT ACTUALLY IN USE
I'VE BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE ABOARD A BOAT AT SEA AGAIN, JUST LIKE WITH MY UNCLE YUJI. (SEE "OUR KINGDOM" VOL. 2 FOR REFERENCE)
HA HA HA
AKIRA ♡
UNCLE YUJI
SPLOOSH
(THEY SAID WE'RE ALL JUST GOING BACK TO AMERICA NOW.)
(UH-HUH.)
...ON GIVING YOU BACK TO REI, AKIRA.
I DON'T PLAN.
THERE'S NO ESCAPE, KIR♡
WE'LL BE AT SEA UNTIL THE NEXT PORT
(THAT'S RIGHT, MONKEY-BOY! COME TO AMERICA WITH US!)
YOU'LL BE OUR PLAY-PAL ♡
YIKES!
(OUR HOUSE IS KEAALLY BIG! SO WE'VE GOT LOTS OF ROOM!)
WHA...!
WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN?!
I DON'T PLAN...
...ON GIVING YOU BACK TO REI, AKIRA.

OKUMIYA
SHIGURE
REI
AKIRA
VOL. 7 CHAPTER
僕らの王国
OUR KINGDOM

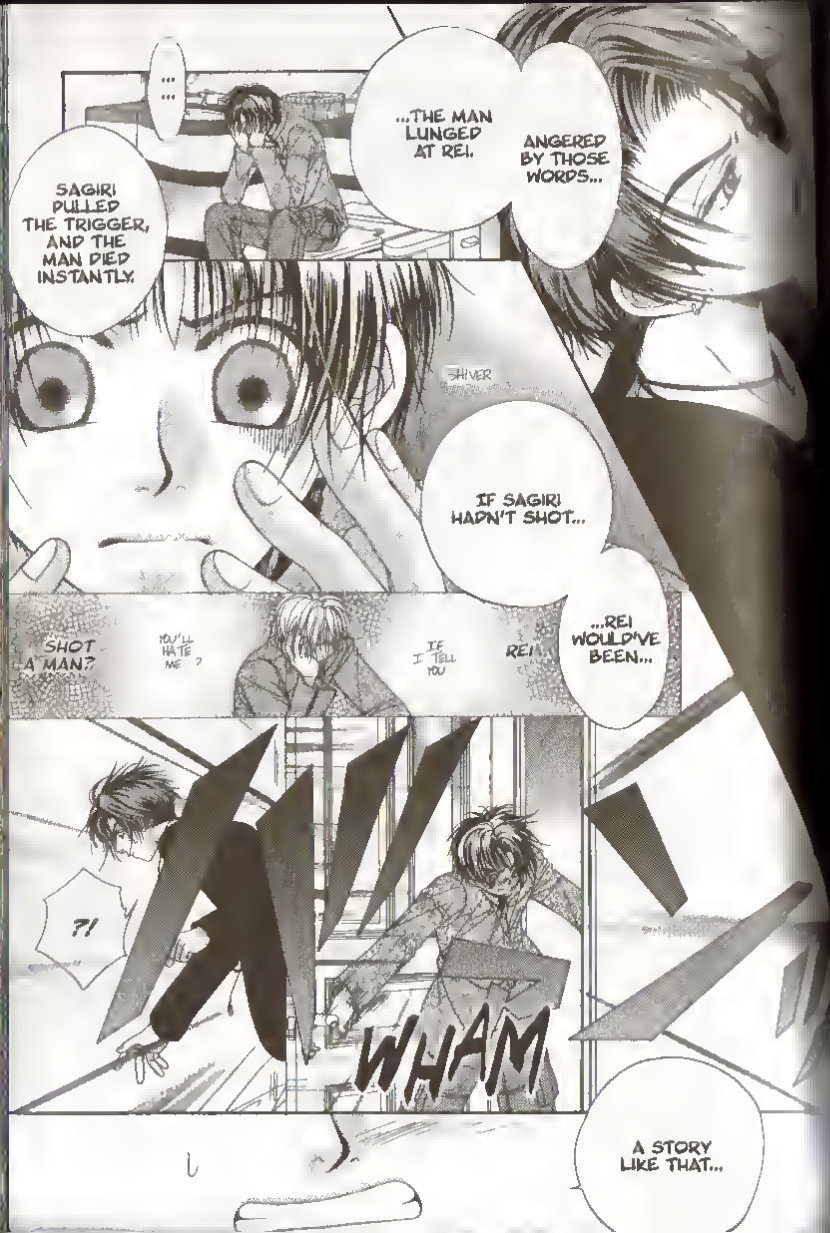

KEATH
SAGIRI
RAOUL
YUJI

..
..
RAOUL?
...ARE YOU ANGRY?
KNOCK
...
...
URRGH
PANG!
HOW COULD I NOT BE?! I'VE BEEN SHANGHAIED ABOARD THIS SHIP AND TOLD I'M BEING TAKEN TO AMERICA!!
.. AND EVERYONE ELSE... ARE ALL WORRIED...
I'LL BET REI...
SIGH
...BUT...
MORE THAN THAT, I'M DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF...

HE'LL COME OUT WHEN HE'S HUNGRY
〈IT CAN'T BE HELPED... LET'S LEAVE HIM ALONE.〉
〈SINCE YOUR BIG BROTHER IS HERE, WHY DON'T YOU PLAY WITH HIM FOR A CHANGE - EH, LITTLE LADIES?〉
〈OH, WELL. LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONNA HOLE HIMSELF UP IN THERE!〉
...
...
STARE -
〈MR.MONKEY-BOY! COME OUT! LET'S PLAY!!〉
〈WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT, SIR RAOUL.〉
BYE BYE!
HMPH!
〈I'M NOT...〉
〈...GOOD WITH KIDS.〉
〈FINE! THE TWO OF US WILL GO PLAY ON OUR OWN!!〉
YANK
〈I'LL LEAVE THE KID IN THE CAN TO YOU.〉
〈AFTER ALL HE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH MY PLANS.♡〉
〈WHAT? ME?!〉
〈LET'S GO, KEATH! SHOW US AROUND THE SHIP!!〉
BUT YOU JUST SAID, "THE TWO OF US"


(HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA SIT THERE CLINGING TO HIM?!)
...AND SAGIRI WAS INJURED.
GRAB
(C'MERE!)
WHIP
CHK
JAK
SLASH

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT REI WORRIES ABOUT...
COULDN'T ARE LESS WHEN IT COMES TO ANYONE ELSE.
YOU.
JOLT...
DO YOU KNOW THE REASON WHY SHIGURE BECAME REI'S BODYGUARD?
...I DECIDED TO HAVE SOME KICKING DONE...
AFTER THEY TOOK MY FAVORITE SHIGURE AWAY FROM ME...
CLUNK
HEY! HEY!
WELL... I KNOW THAT... BUT RAOUL'S NOT ONE TO TALK, EITHER.
...REI DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT...
IT'S BECAUSE REI HAS A PERSONALITY PROBLEM
...WHAT?
THAT'S...


...
...
SAGIRI PULLED THE TRIGGER, AND THE MAN DIED INSTANTLY.
...THE MAN LUNGED AT REI.
ANGERED BY THOSE WORDS...
SHIVER
IF SAGIRI HADN'T SHOT...
...REI WOULD'VE BEEN...
SHOT A MAN?
YOU'LL HATE ME?
IF I TELL YOU
REI
?!
WHAM
A STORY LIKE THAT...

BANG
(...YOU LITTLE BRAT!)
AHH
GHAK
(THIS IS SELF-DEFENSE.)
(DIE!)
(VERMIN LIKE YOU DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE.)

I'LL BE FINE!
I'LL NEVER...
...BETRAY REI!
YOU'LL SEE... IT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU, TOO...
...WHEN YOU CAN NO LONGER HANDLE REI'S EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS.
NOT EVER!
GRIP

REI...
TAP
...IS JUST TOO BIG A BURDEN FOR YOU TO HANDLE.
IT'S NOT AS IF I HEARD IT FROM REI HIMSELF, EITHER.
THIS INCIDENT IS KNOWN ONLY TO A FEW OF THE BASILS' INNER CIRCLE.
UNTIL I HEAR IT DIRECTLY FROM HIM...
...I WON'T BELIEVE IT!!
...AND YOU'LL SOON BE CRUSHED BY THE PRESSURE.
REMAIN WITH HIM...

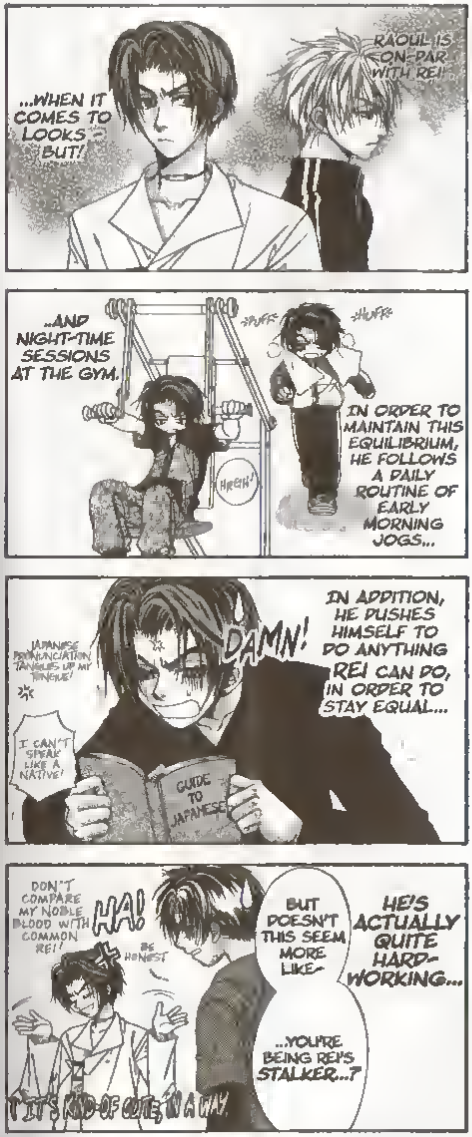
GRAB
I'M CONCERNED FOR YOUR SAFETY.
IS THAT...
...THE TRUTH?
BLUSH
THUMP
!
I SEE.
OKAY. THANKS!

HAH!
WHIRR
WHIRR
...REI?
A HELI-COPTER...?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS INTERFERE?!
...
...
I'M...
RAOUL!
DASH
WHIP
?!

...WHEN EVERYTHING I WANT IS ALWAYS TAKEN FROM ME...?
HOW CAN I EVER BECOME HONEST
A LUXURY LINER... WHAT AN OPULENT ABDUCTION THIS IS...
(I'M JEALOUS OF REI'S HAPPINESS.)
HEY, YOU'RE NO SLOUCH, EITHER.
THE NEXT SCHEDULED PORT IS KOBE, SO THERE WAS REALLY NO NEED FOR A CHOPPER, NOW WAS THERE? ♡
KNOWING SIR REI...
...HE PROBABLY ALREADY HAS SOME IDEA ABOUT WHICH ROOMS SIR RAOUL IS LIKELY TO BE IN.
SIR REI!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
WE WILL FOLLOW AFTER SIR REI!

CLENCH
...THAT'S WHEN I LIKE YOU BEST, RAOUL!
YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU'RE HONEST LIKE THIS...
T BECAUSE THE SAME , WE'VE WAYS BEEN MPARED.
REI AND I...
HE...
...SO I'VE ALWAYS TRIED FRANTICALLY TO KEEP UP, BUT...
I DIDN'T WANT TO SEEM INFERIOR TO HIM...
...ALWAYS MANAGING TO TAKE EVERYTHING AWAY SO EASILY FOR HIMSELF...
(SO I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL BEGRUDGE ME...)
(...THIS LITTLE ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE.)

(OH MY!)
(WHAT FABULOUS TIMING!)
!!
JUMP!
(I'VE FOUND YOU, YOU HOSTAGE/BAIT FOR THE PRINCES, YOU.♡)
THIS PLACE IS TOO BIG! I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO...
FLOP
WHAM
NOISY AS USUAL, I SEE!
WHERE'S AKIRA?!
WITH THOSE TWO ON THE CASE, EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE!
I'M SURE THERE'LL BE NO CASUALTIES♡ ...PROBABLY.
HA HA HA!
AH... THE FIRST-CLASS CABINS...
(...)
(UNDERSTOOD)
PIP
(OKAY, OKAY.)
(WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE CLOTHES, SO GET OUT!!)
<WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO??
RUSSSH
I GUESS THOSE TWO NEED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON AFTER ALL. ♡
(FINALLY, THEY'RE HERE.)
(SO LATE!)
KISS
(YOU SHOULD'VE CAUGHT UP BEFORE WE LEFT PORT!)


RAOUL IS ON-PAR WITH REI!
...WHEN IT COMES TO LOOKS - BUT!
...AND NIGHT-TIME SESSIONS AT THE GYM.
HUFF!
HUFF!
HMPH!
IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THIS EQUILIBRIUM, HE FOLLOWS A DAILY ROUTINE OF EARLY MORNING JOGS...
IN ADDITION, HE PUSHES HIMSELF TO DO ANYTHING REI CAN DO, IN ORDER TO STAY EQUAL...
DAMN!
JAPANESE PRONUNCIATION TANGLES UP MY TONGUE!
I CAN'T SPEAK LIKE A NATIVE!
GUIDE TO JAPANESE
DON'T COMPARE MY NOBLE BLOOD WITH COMMON REI!
HA!
BE HONEST
IT'S KIND OF CUTE, IN A WAY.
BUT DOESN'T THIS SEEM MORE LIKE-
...YOU'RE REI'S STALKER...?
HE'S ACTUALLY QUITE HARD-WORKING...

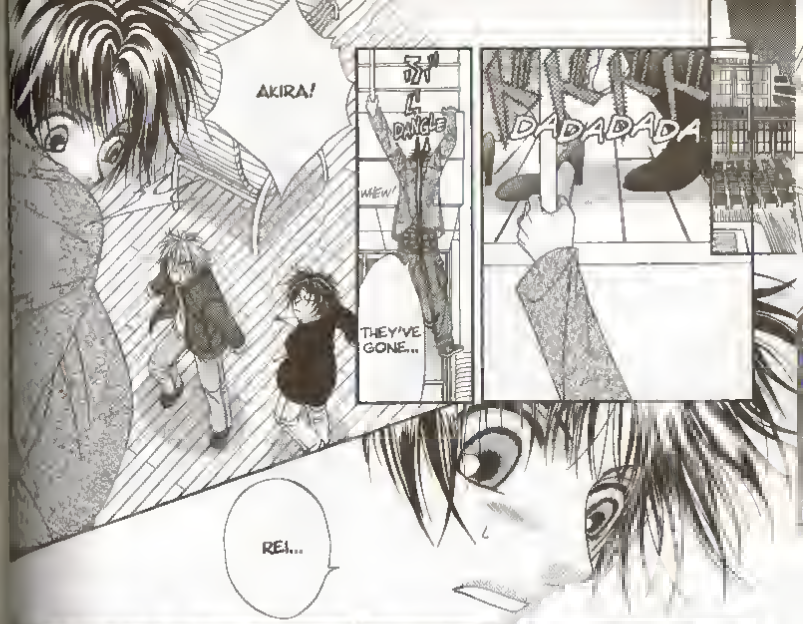
ラウルってこんな奴！

THIS IS RAOUL!

GRAB
(HEY!)
(SO, WHERE ARE THE LITTLE PRINCES?)
(WHAT?)
(HM?)
(SO YOU FINALLY W
(I TAUGHT YOU THE IRON RULE - NEVER LEAVE THE CLIENT'S SIDE WHEN IN A CROWD.)
(YOU GUYS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THEIR GUARDS, AREN'T YOU?!)
(I WAS GETTING TIRED OF WAITING.)
FLING
(DIDN'T I?!)
THUD
(I WAS RIGHT... YOU BOTH FAIL THE TEST!)

!!
PING
(AS A CEREMONIAL KICKOFF FOR TONIGHT'S PARTY, A GAME OF "TAG" IS NOW COMMENCING IN THE GRAND LOBBY!)
(TO THE FIRST ONE WHO CAN CATCH THE DARLING LITTLE BOY - A FABULOUS PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED ♡)
KEATH
AKIRA?!
(KEATH!)
(PLEASE STOP FOOLING AROUND?!)
(YOU CAN SPOT HIM BY THE RED RIBBON AROUND HIS NECK. ♡)
DON'T TIE WEIRD THINGS AROUND OTHER PEOPLE'S NECKS!
KEATH'S NECKTIE
WHY-
- IS THIS HAPPENING?!
WHAT A STRANGE EVENT
WAIT UP, LITTLE BOY! HO HO HO!
DADADADADA

(WHOA!)
KNOCK
YIKE!
DROP
AAH!
AKIRA!
REI...
SWING

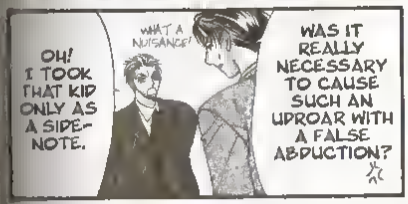

AKIRA!
DANGLE
WHEW!
THEY'VE GONE...
DADADADA
REI...

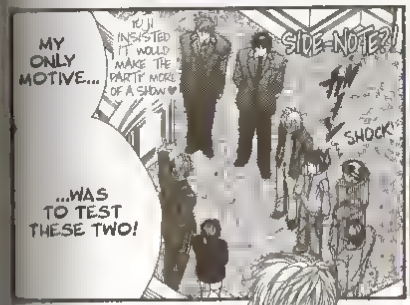
HUH?
GRAB
(HA-HA! CAUGHT YOU AGAIN♡)
SNAP
AAH!

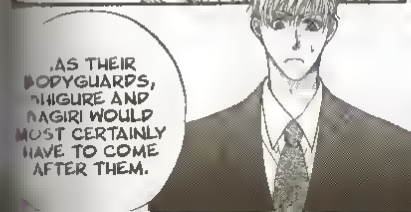
(U...UH...)
WHISTLE
AHEM
(I'D LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE NOW HAVE A WINNER!)
REI...?!
!!
(NOW, LET THE PARTY BEGIN.♡)
JOLT!
WHOOSH
SLIP
(WHA...!)
THUD
THANKS, REI!
WHEW
YOU SAVED ME!!

SAGIRI IS TOO STRICT...
...MAKING THE CLIENT FEEL ILL-AT-EASE.
...AND IS EASILY DOMINATED BY HIS CLIENT.
SHIGURE IS TOO KIND...
IT'S TRUE THAT SHIGURE AND SAGIRI ARE MUCH MORE SKILLED THAN THE OTHERS.
...BUT - I DUNNO. SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR PERSONALITIES JUST MAKES THEM INEFFICIENT
I JUST DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO GIVE THEM ANY FUTURE ASSIGNMENTS GUARDING AN IMPORTANT CLIENT
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO SEE IF THEY NEEDED MORE TRAINING POUNDED INTO THEM!
WE'RE NOT SOLDIERS!
IT'S NOT ENOUGH IN OUR LINE OF WORK JUST TO BE GOOD AT WHAT WE DO - WE ALSO HAVE TO EARN THE CLIENT'S TRUST!
WHAT?
...AND KEEP GUARDING THE PRINCES AS YOU HAVE BEEN.
I'VE DECIDED YOU ARE BOTH TO STAY BEHIND HERE IN JAPAN..

...SIR RAOUL AND HIS MOTHER DECIDED TO LET THE GIRLS HAVE THEIR PARTY HERE, WHERE THEY COULD BE WITH THE SHIGURE THEY SO LOVE.♡
YUP! SINCE SAGIRI ANNOUNCED HE WAS COMING TO JAPAN...
I KNEW ALL ABOUT IT
IT'S WHAT THEY CALL A SURPRISE PARTY
WE KEPT IT ALL FROM THEM OF COURSE


OH! I TOOK THAT KID ONLY AS A SIDE-NOTE.
WHAT A NUISANCE!
WAS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO CAUSE SUCH AN UPROAR WITH A FALSE ABDUCTION?

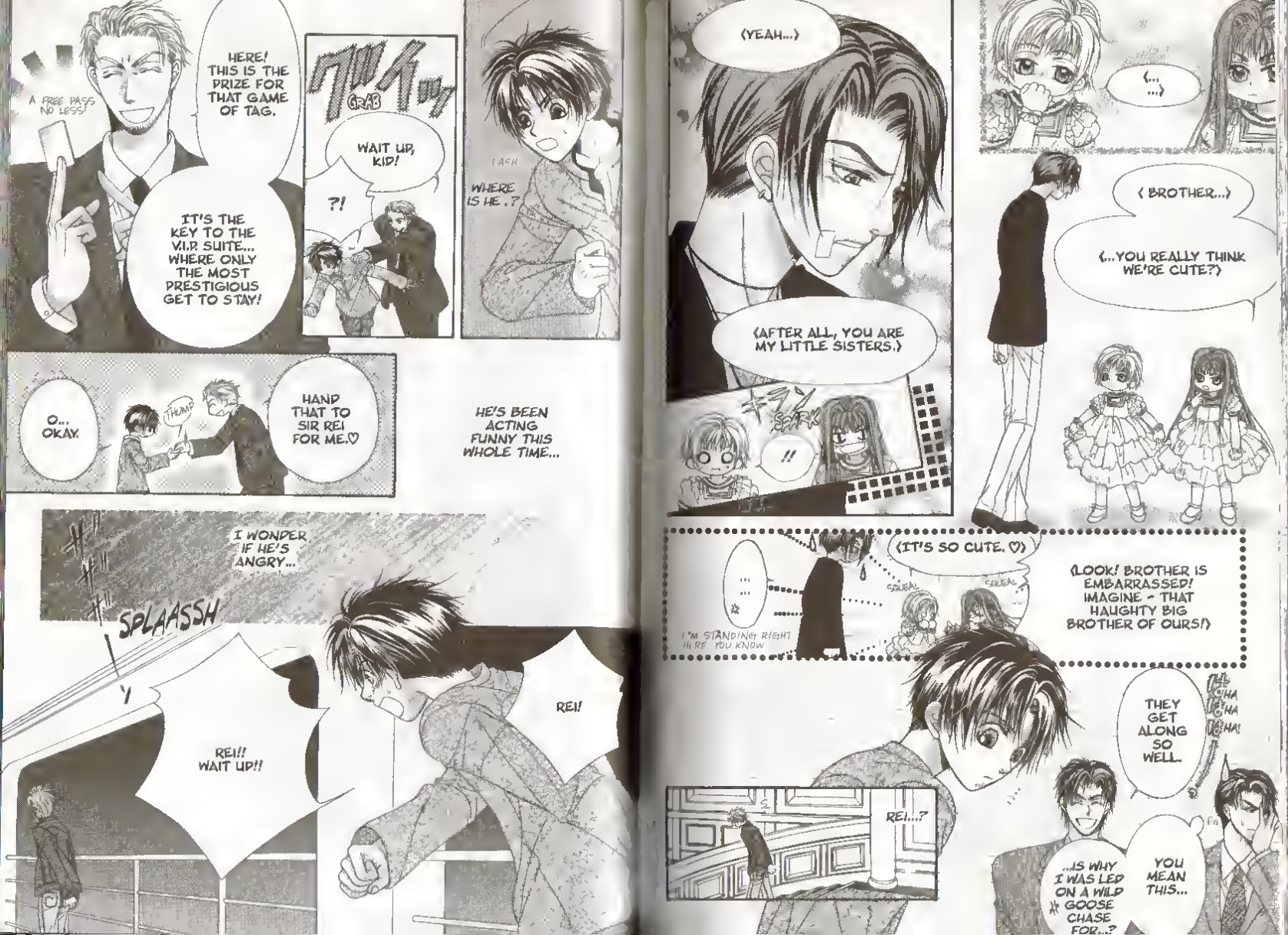

MY ONLY MOTIVE...
...WAS TO TEST THESE TWO!
SIDE-NOTE?!
SHOCK!


AS THEIR BODYGUARDS, SHIGURE AND SAGIRI WOULD MUST CERTAINLY HAVE TO COME AFTER THEM.

WHAT?
LITTLE ROSE AND MAGGIE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY?!
BUSTLE
HOHOHO - THAT WAS A FUN EVENT
BUSTLE
LOOK AT THIS PILE OF GIFTS!
WITH THE SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE OF SIR RAOUL AND HIS SISTERS...

(THAT'S NOT FAIR!)
(OH MY, LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE.)
(WHY, YOU LOOK LIKE A REAL PRINCESS, MILADY!)
(NOW WE WON'T GET TO SEE RUSSELL AGAIN!)
(OH! WHY THANK YOU!♡)
<YOU LOOK AS IF YOU COULD DANCE AND SING! ♥>
SWIFT...
<YOU HAVE A GOOD EYE>
(IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT YOU, BIG BROTHER!!)
!
HE WAS BOASTING TO ME EARLIER ABOUT HOW PRETTY HIS LITTLE SISTERS ARE!
OH!
RAOUL PICKED THOSE OUTFITS OUT FOR YOU, DIDN'T HE?
"YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU'RE HONEST LIKE THIS..."
YEAH... SORT-OF.
"...THAT'S WHEN I LIKE YOU BEST, RAOUL!"

BY WORKING TOGETHER...
...THERE ARE THINGS YOU TWO SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER.
HUH?!
OH... BUT THEN WHO WILL GUARD SIR RAOUL AND HIS SISTERS?!
DOES THAT MEAN MR. SHIGURE CAN STAY?!
WHAT?!
THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO LET SHIGURE STAY HERE, TOO.
IT SEEMS HE'S TAKEN AN INTEREST IN THIS COUNTRY, SO HE'S GOING TO TRANSFER AND STUDY ABROAD.
SIR RAOUL SAYS HE'S STAYING HERE IN JAPAN.
HUH? DIDN'T I MENTION IT?
RAOUL DID...?
"...I'LL CONSIDER IT..."
"IF YOU BOW YOUR HEAD DOWN AND PLEAD TO ME..."
COME TO THINK OF IT...


A FREE PASS NO LESS!
HERE! THIS IS THE PRIZE FOR THAT GAME OF TAG.
IT'S THE KEY TO THE V.I.P. SUITE... WHERE ONLY THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS GET TO STAY!
GRAB
WAIT UP, KID!
?!
LACH
WHERE IS HE..?
O... OKAY.
THUMP
HAND THAT TO SIR REI FOR ME.♡
HE'S BEEN ACTING FUNNY THIS WHOLE TIME...
I WONDER IF HE'S ANGRY...
SPLAASSH
REI!! WAIT UP!!
REI!
〈YEAH...〉
〈AFTER ALL, YOU ARE MY LITTLE SISTERS.〉
SPARK
!!
〈...〉
〈BROTHER...〉
〈...YOU REALLY THINK WE'RE CUTE?〉
〈IT'S SO CUTE. ♡〉
SQUEAL
SQUEAL
I'M STANDING RIGHT HERE YOU KNOW
〈LOOK! BROTHER IS EMBARRASSED! IMAGINE - THAT HAUGHTY BIG BROTHER OF OURS!〉
REI...?
THEY GET ALONG SO WELL.
HA HA HA!
...IS WHY I WAS LED ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE FOR...?
YOU MEAN THIS...

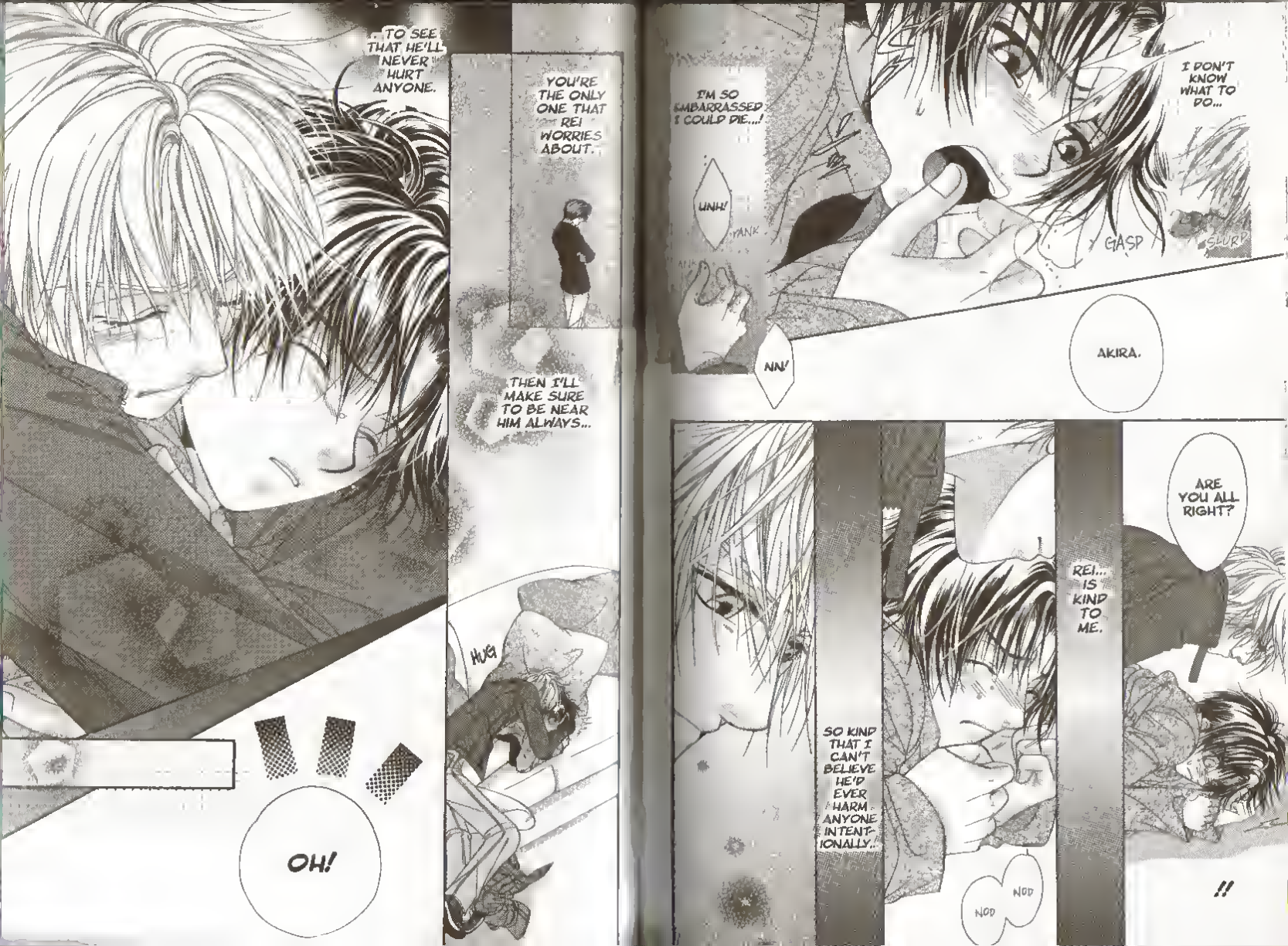
LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS SOMEWHERE ELSE, OKAY?!
R... REI!!
TAP
TAP
...I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO SNAP AND LOSE CONTROL.
KCHAK
THE PRIZE FROM KEATH →
BREATHE IN
BREATHE OUT
OKAY!

WHAT?!
GRAB
REI!!
CLAMP
I... CAN'T BREATHE...
R... REI!
AKIRA...
I KNOW IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
BUT WHENEVER I SEE YOU WITH ANYONE ELSE...
I...
...CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE.

EVEN IF YOU STAY NEAR ME, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE...
THUD
!
STUMBLE
...THAT YOU WON'T BETRAY ME, EITHER - IS THERE, AKIRA?
THOSE WORDS -
!!
THOUGH THEY'RE MEANT TO HURT ME...
...HIS EXPRESSION LOOKS AS IF HE'S ABOUT TO CRY...
IF THAT EVER HAPPENS -
THAT'S WHEN YOU CAN PUNCH ME OUT.
ALL THIS FUSS AND WORRY I CAUSED EVERYONE... IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING ANGRY
WHEN I SAID...
...I FELT LIKE I'D LOSE CONTROL...
REI!
YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND PUNCH ME OUT ALL YOU WANT!
NN!
FLINCH
...HITTING.
?!
...I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT...

FLINCH
H...
- N!
UNH!
SQUEEZE
TWITCH
N!
...IF YOU'RE THE ONE THAT MADE IT.
FLINCH
TWITCH
NN...!
UNH...!

NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY DO TO ME, REI -
AND I FEEL LIKE EMBRACING HIM.
I'M NOT SCARED
EVEN IF YOU MAY BE WOUNDED BECAUSE OF ME?
HUG!
AND EVEN IF IT LEAVES A SCAR...
...I WON'T MIND...
A WOUND WILL HEAL!

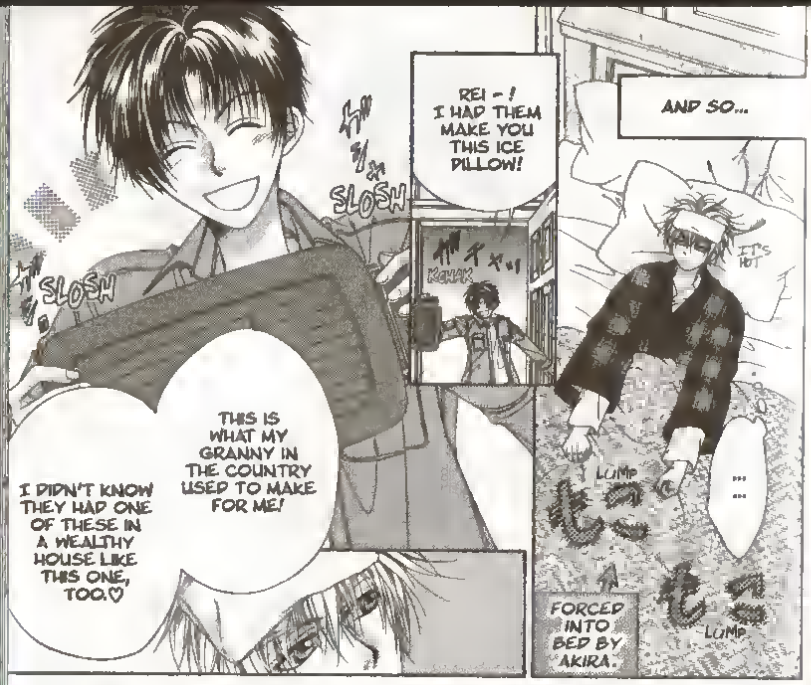

...TO SEE THAT HE'LL NEVER HURT ANYONE.
OH!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT REI WORRIES ABOUT.
THEN I'LL MAKE SURE TO BE NEAR HIM ALWAYS...
HUG!
I'M SO EMBARRASSED I COULD DIE...!
UNH!
YANK
NN!
GASP
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
SLURP
AKIRA.
SO KIND THAT I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D EVER HARM ANYONE INTENTIONALLY..
NOD
NOD
REI... IS KIND TO ME.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
!!

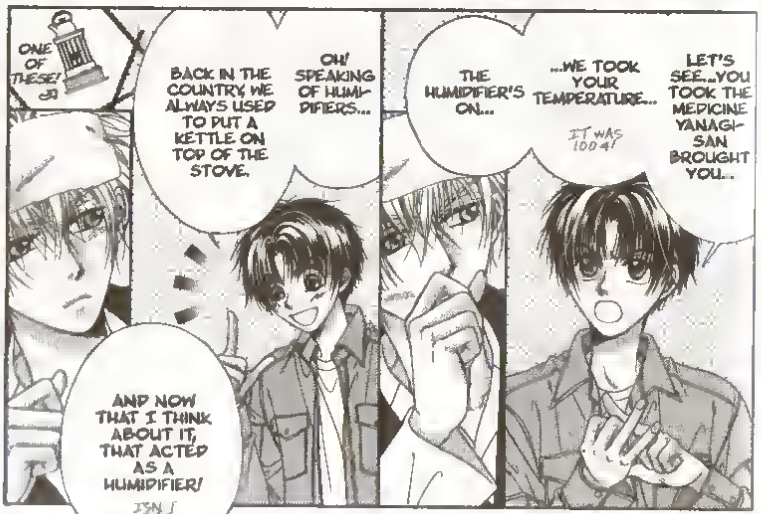
SHHHH
(...IN HIS CASE...)
(SHIGURE'S SKILL WITH FIREARMS IS ON-PAR WITH MINE...)
(IT'S JUST THAT...)
CLAK
(YOU'RE GOOD, SAGIRI.)
(I'LL BET YOUR LITTLE BROTHER SHIGURE COULDN'T MATCH THIS, EH?)
THWAP
(THAT'S NOT TRUE.)
(...HE'S TOO MUCH OF A COWARD)
(TO HOLD A GUN.)
(SO -)
(WHEN WILL YOU RETURN TO YOUR OFFICIAL POSITION AS REI'S BODYGUARD?)

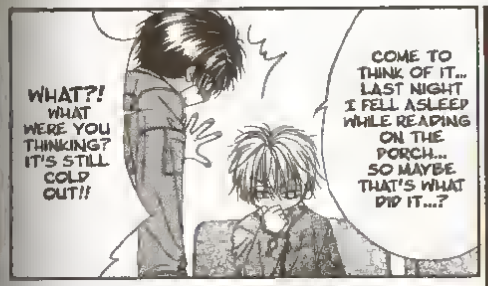
I'LL ALWAYS BE NEAR YOU TO THE END!
OKAY?!
DON'T BE SAD!
OKAY.
I'M GLAD I MET YOU, AKIRA.
THEN, SAGIRI.
HE TOLD ME THAT WOULD ONLY MAKE ME THE SAME AS THEM.
BUT AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T CARE... NOT ABOUT ANYONE, NOT EVEN MYSELF.
AND THEN SUDDENLY.
I WAS OVERCOME WITH PITY AND SELF-LOATHING.
HUG
WHOA!
P... PLEASE! NOT WHEN I'M NAKED!!
AT THE TIME...
...I REALLY WANTED TO KILL THEM ALL.
WH...!
IN THE PAST... BEFORE I MET YOU...
THERE WAS AN INCIDENT WHERE I WAS ALMOST KIDNAPPED AND I SHOT A MAN.
YIKES! I'M BUCK NAKED!
IT'S PAST MIDNIGHT ALREADY, SO YOU'RE TOO LATE, AKIRA.
THAT'S RIGHT! I STILL HAVEN'T SAID HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO LITTLE ROSE AND MAGGIE YET!!
HUH!
WAKE!
OKAY!!
HUH? OH...
I TOLD OKUMIYA WE'LL BE DISEMBARKING TOMORROW MORNING...
W...WAIT... AFTER THAT... LAST NIGHT... NOTHING ELSE HAPPENED.. DID IT...?
BLUSH
...SO YOU CAN SLEEP UNTIL THEN, AKIRA.
AAGH! I CAN'T IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
ALL OVER
AND THERE
BUT HE TOUCHED ME THERE
AKIRA.
BUT EVEN IF HE DID GO FURTHER THAN THAT IT WOULDN'T MIND

HA-CHOO
BUT THEY SAY IF YOU SNEEZE THREE TIMES IT'S A COLD.
OH! THEN IT MUST BE THAT OTHER THING!
SOMEONE MUST BE TALKING ABOUT YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK!
STUDY SESSION.
HM? HAVE YOU CAUGHT A COLD, REI? YOU OKAY?
...NO.
HA-CHOO
HA-CHOO
!
CLATTER
"!"
"PAT
THE PRINCE CATCHES C
KINGDOM

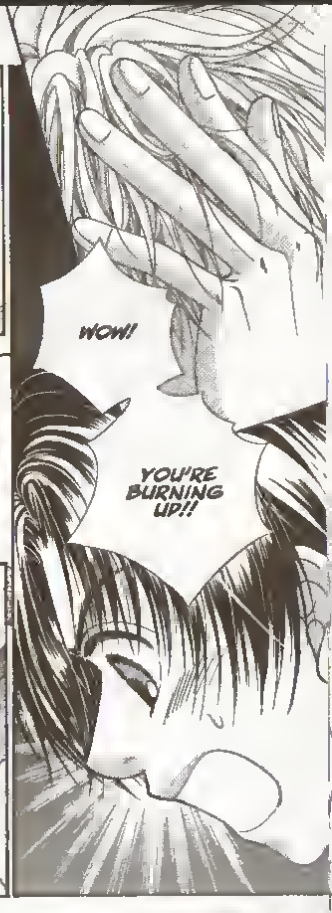
(I'D LIKE TO HAVE STAYED BEHIND IN JAPAN A LITTLE LONGER MYSELF, IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT...)
(YOUR SISTERS HAVE FINALLY GONE TO SLEEP.)
(I SEE.)
(THEY COMPLAINED THE WHOLE TIME 'TIL THEN.)
(SIR RAOUL.)
WHOOOSHH
(BECAUSE...)
(IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL BE MORE FUN OVER HERE FROM NOW ON.♡)
(...HMPH.)
MMM... SO SWELL...
I SWEAR WHENEVER YOU ARRIVE, SIR KUJI, THERE'S NO END TO THE ANNOYANCES
HA HA HA HA
THINK OF THEM AS LITTLE BREEZES ♥

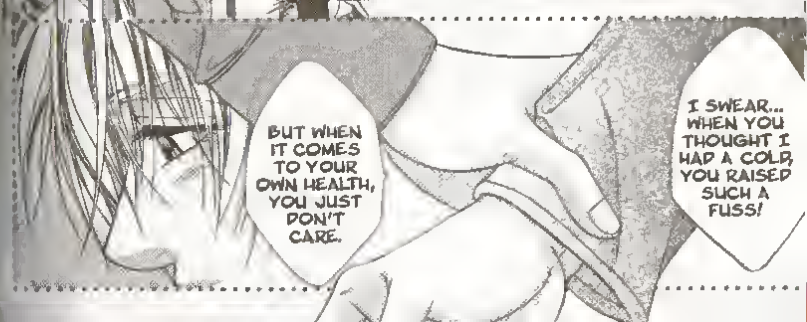

REI-! I HAD THEM MAKE YOU THIS ICE PILLOW!
AND SO...
SLOSH
SLOSH
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD ONE OF THESE IN A WEALTHY HOUSE LIKE THIS ONE, TOO.♡
THIS IS WHAT MY GRANNY IN THE COUNTRY USED TO MAKE FOR ME!
IT'S HOT
LUMP
LUMP
FORCED INTO BED BY AKIRA.


ONE OF THESE!
BACK IN THE COUNTRY, WE ALWAYS USED TO PUT A KETTLE ON TOP OF THE STOVE.
OH! SPEAKING OF HUMIDIFIERS...
AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT ACTED AS A HUMIDIFIER!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
THE HUMIDIFIER'S ON...
...WE TOOK YOUR TEMPERATURE...
IT WAS 100.4!
LET'S SEE...YOU TOOK THE MEDICINE YANAGI-SAN BROUGHT YOU...


WHAT?! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? IT'S STILL COLD OUT!!
COME TO THINK OF IT... LAST NIGHT I FELL ASLEEP WHILE READING ON THE PORCH... SO MAYBE THAT'S WHAT DID IT...?

I ALWAYS RECOVER QUICKL-
BUT IT'S JUST A LITTLE COLD
YOU HAVE TO STAY IN BED WHEN YOU HAVE A FEVER!
NO!
GRAB


WOW!
YOU'RE BURNING UP!!


BUT WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR OWN HEALTH, YOU JUST DON'T CARE.
I SWEAR... WHEN YOU THOUGHT I HAD A COLD, YOU RAISED SUCH A FUSS!

OH!
OKAY.
THESE CLOTHES HAVE MADE ME SWEATY... WILL YOU HELP ME CHANGE?
SNAP
SNAP
はっ
HUH!
THEN...
OH!
LIKE BY MR SHIGURE
BUT WAIT... DIDN'T YOU HATE BEING LOOKED AFTER?
PRESENTLY OUT ON AN ERRAND...
SIR REI!
HE'S DIFFERENT!
HE'S JUST ANNOYING!

WELL... THERE AREN'T MANY TIMES LIKE THIS WHEN I CAN BE OF HELP TO YOU.
IT'S BECAUSE.
HUH?!
YOU SEEM KINDA HAPPY, AKIRA.
OH... SORRY.
AM I TALKING TOO MUCH?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?!
WHA...!
YOU'RE TRYING SO HARD... AND IT'S CUTE.
NO...
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE HELPING ME OUT, SO..
LIKE WITH STUDYING!
WHILE YOU HAVE THIS COLD...
I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU
SO, LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED!

HUG
IT'S MUCH WARMER THIS WAY...
SO SLEEP HERE WITH ME, AKIRA.♡
"FUNNY"?
BLUSH
...
...
IF... IF YOU WON'T...
...DO ANY-THING... FUNNY..
IT'S OKAY! IF YOU CATCH IT, I'LL BE THE ONE TO TAKE CARE YOU.♡
D...DO YOU WANT ME TO CATCH YOUR COLD, TOO?!
WHOOSH
I MEAN...!!
I...

BA-THUMP!
!!
WHA...
BLUSH!
WHAT AM I GETTING EMBARRASSED FOR?!
I UNDID YOUR BUTTONS FOR YOU...
WHIP
PANIC
YOU CAN DO THE REST ON YOUR OWN, RIGHT?
POUF
GRAB
HUH?

THE THEME OF THIS MANGA WAS CHOSEN FROM AMONG THOSE REQUESTED BY READERS IN THE "SITUATIONS WE'D LIKE TO SEE" POLL OF THE DEC. 2003 ISSUE OF BE-BOY MAGAZINE! THE WINNING THEME: "COSPLAY" ♥
READERS' REQUEST
DRESS-UP
WHAT IS "COSPLAY"?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I HAVE A BAD FEELING!
"COSPLAY"?
DRESS-UP!
IN OTHER WORDS... COSPLAY!!
OUR KINGDOM
僕らの王国
READERS' REQUEST
WHOA!!
?!
NURSE
SCHOOL GIRL
WELL...
SOME-THING LIKE THIS -
FOR EXAMPLE...
POP
DFFT!
TSK TSK
PLEASE CUT IT OUT!
ISN'T IT?!
THIS IS JUST CROSS-DRESSING!!
YEAH!!
LIKE I SAID.. ♡

IN OTHER WORDS...
SOMETHING MORE THAN THIS, RIGHT? ♡
KISS
BEET-RED
!
JUMP
SIR REI!
WHAM!
SNAP
I SEE YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF CHANGING!
DRESSED AS HER
OH! SO YOU WERE HERE TOO, AKIRA-SAN! I BEG YOUR PARDON!
SNUFF
SNUFF
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING...AFTER THAT, REI'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SHIGURE GOT EVEN WORSE...
I JUST HEARD ABOUT YOUR COLD!!
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?!
SIR REI
DENSE-I
OUR KINGDOM ~THE PRINCE CATCHES COLD~ / END

CLANK
NOW LET ME BEGIN...
...MY VERY THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF YOU. ♡
AAAAGH! ☆
YOU'RE STUBBORN...
MI
TWIST
THEN -
HOW ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS? ♡
IF YOU DON'T HURRY AND CONFESS...
...YOU'LL ONLY FEEL MORE PAIN!
PLEASE - STOP IT! STOP IT! WHAT IS THIS?!
HUH? WHAT?

WHAT IS IT, SHIGURE-KUN?
D...
DOCTOR OKUMIYA...
...IT'S COSPLAY SHORT FOR "COSTUME PLAY."
HEY!
SLIP
TRANSFORMING ONESELF INTO SOMETHING OTHER THAN NORMAL...
...FOR ONE'S OWN ENJOYMENT - THAT'S COSPLAY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
N...NO - NOT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
SO...
FOR EXAMPLE...

DRESS-UP THEME 2
CINDERELLA
ONCE UPON A TIME,
THERE WAS A LOVELY MAIDEN WHO WAS HORRIBLY ABUSED BY HER STEPMOTHER
WHY ME?!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
CINDERELLA HIYORI
CINDERELLA!
WHOOSH
OH! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SUCH AN INEPT, INEFFICIENT CHILD!
SIGH
SCREECH
FLING!
HOW COULD I BE DONE SO FAST?! THE WHOLE HOUSE?!
DON'T CALL ME SIMPLE!!
SMACK
ON TOP OF THAT, SIMPLE AND NAIVE AS WELL!
CUTIE BUTTON NOSE
HO HO HO
THAT'S WHY NO ONE WILL HAVE YOU FOR A BRIDE.♡
ARE YOU DONE CLEANING?
STEPMOTHER TAMAKI

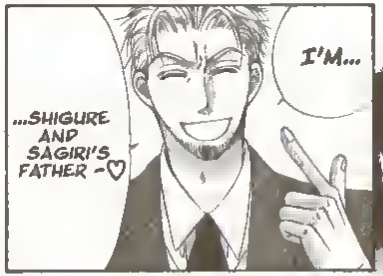
AAAAGH!!
OF COURSE THAT ONLY MEANS...
...MORE ENJOYMENT FOR ME.

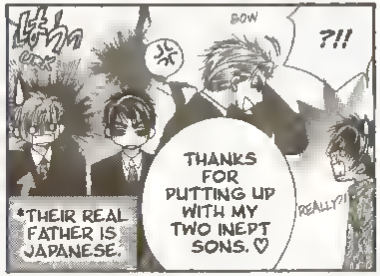
SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU'RE SHIGURE-KUN. ♡
STAB
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE BEING TREATED LIKE THIS?!

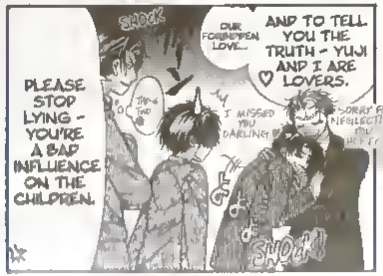
I THOUGHT IT WOULD SUIT YOU, AKIRA...
EVEN YOU, REI?! WHAT IS THAT?!
YOU BIG DUMMY!!
YUP ♡
WELL - YES!
IT IS.
...A MASQUERADE PARTY?
SO, IN OTHER WORDS COSPLAY IS SOMETHING LIKE...
YOU THINK?
BUT SIR YUJI S IS OVERDOING IT
SOB
SOB

FINALLY, I'LL BE ABLE TO GET BACK AT STEPMOTHER!!
HMPH!
YES!
WELL, I SUPPOSE I CAN KEEP YOU AS A SERVANT OR SOMETHING!!
GLOAT
HEH!
I'M SORRY FOR EVERYTHING I'VE DONE! PLEASE DON'T ABANDON ME!
PITIFUL
MURMUR
HM?
I WONDER WHO SHE IS?
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN!
HE'S NOT MY TYPE (PLUS HE'S A DUDE) BUT BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS!!
CLENCH
CLENCH
ALL RIGHT! C'MERE, MY PRINCE!
DEAR PRINCESS...
I KNOW NOT YOUR NAME...

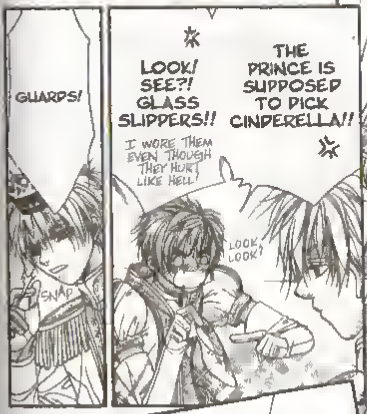
AND SO...
I CAN I TRUST THIS GUY?
ABRACADABRA
WHY ME?!
RAOL
CINDERELLA WAS TRANSFORMED BY A WIZARD FOR ONE NIGHT OF ENCHANTMENT.
OHH!
CAN I PULL THIS?
OF COURSE NOT!
GLAMOROUS!!
CINDERELLA VOWED--
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
ONE DAY SHE WOULD PAY THE STEPMOTHER BACK!!
AFTER THIS, CINDERELLA MEETS UP WITH THE PRINCE AND GETS BACK AT THE STEPMOTHER!!
DAMMIT! JUST WAIT!
...
...
THERE'S THE PRINCE OF THE CASTLE!!
THEN, CINDERELLA HEADED FOR THE CASTLE BALL.
TROT
TROT

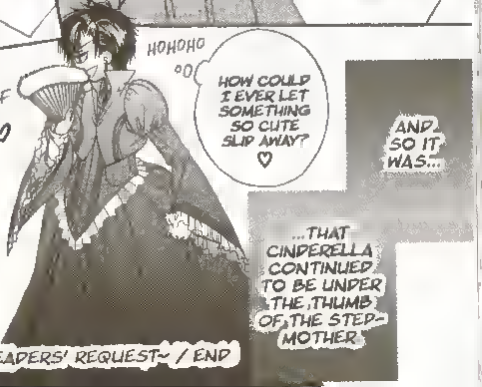





SHOCK
OUR FOREMOST LOVE...
AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH - YUJI ♡ AND I ARE LOVERS.
I MISSED YOU DARLING!
SORRY FOR NEGLECTING YOU
PLEASE STOP LYING - YOU'RE A BAD INFLUENCE ON THE CHILDREN.

ALL LIES!


GUARDS!
SNAP
LOOK! SEE?! GLASS SLIPPERS!!
I WORE THEM EVEN THOUGH THEY HURT LIKE HELL!
LOOK LOOK!
THE PRINCE IS SUPPOSED TO PICK CINDERELLA!!


HOHOHO
WORK YOURSELF TO THE BONE♡
HOW COULD I EVER LET SOMETHING SO CUTE SLIP AWAY? ♡
AND SO IT WAS...
...THAT CINDERELLA CONTINUED TO BE UNDER THE THUMB OF THE STEP-MOTHER

OUR KINGDOM ~READERS' REQUEST~ / END

〈TOMORROW -〉
〈THEN -〉
〈I'LL GO WITH YOU.〉
〈THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN WANTING TO SEE SHIGURE AGAIN AS WELL, SO EVERYTHING WORKS OUT.〉
〈YOU MEAN THEY'RE COMING ALONG, TOO...?〉
〈I LEAVE FOR JAPAN.〉
〈WHAT - DO YOU HAVE AN OBJECTION?〉
SMAK
〈...NO.〉
〈UNTIL YOU SWITCH PLACES WITH SHIGURE, YOU'RE OFFICIALLY STILL MY BODYGUARD, RIGHT?〉
〈I'VE ALREADY OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM MY CLIENTS...〉
〈...MR. BASIL AND YOUR MOTHER, SIR RAOUL.〉

OUR KINGDOM 4
NADUKI KOUJIMA
June